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## JUDGE JOHN F. DILLON.

BY EDWARD H. STILES.\*

I venture to say that no son of Iowa has conferred a more substantial and enduring honor upon her name, or more justly deserves to be embalmed in her historic archives, than John F. Dillon; successively Judge of one of her District Courts; Judge and Chief Justice of her Supreme Court; Judge of the United States Circuit Court for the Eighth Judicial Circuit, in which Iowa with other States was embraced; Professor of Real Estate and Equity Jurisprudence in the Columbia College Law School; Storrs-Professor of Yale University; author of *Dillon on Municipal Corporations*; of *Removal of Causes from the State to the Federal Courts*; of *Dillon's Reports of the United States Circuit Courts for the Eighth Circuit*; of *Laws and Jurisprudence of England and America*; of various opinions, essays, lectures, addresses and papers; member of L'Institut de Droit International; lawyer, author and publicist of conspicuous international fame.

\*Edward H. Stiles commenced the practice of his profession at the city of Ottumwa where he resided for a period of nearly thirty years and was during that time a leading member of the Iowa bar. In 1859 he was chosen City Counsellor. In 1861, County Attorney. He was elected to the Iowa House of Representatives for the session of 1864, and to the State Senate in the autumn of 1865. He served in the regular session of 1866, but in the autumn of that year he resigned the Senatorship, to accept the position of Reporter of the Supreme Court of the State. He served in this position until 1875. His Reports fill 16 octavo volumes. He also prepared and published in four volumes a Digest of the Decisions of the Supreme Court of Iowa from the earliest territorial period. He was the Republican candidate for Congress in General Weaver's district, the Sixth Iowa, then a Democratic stronghold, in 1883 and came within a few votes of election. He was the attorney of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad Company, and of the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific Railroad Company, for twenty years in the Ottumwa district. In 1886 he removed to Kansas City, Mo., where he has since practiced his profession, and is a leading member of that bar. He was the Republican candidate for Circuit Judge in 1892, and since November of that year has been Master in Chancery of the United States Circuit Court for the Western Division of the Western District of Missouri. In 1882 at the request of the then judges of the Supreme Court, he commenced to gather material for biographical sketches of the lawyers, judges and leading public men of early Iowa. He is now engaged in utilizing the material thus compiled, the result of which we are authorized to say he expects in the near future to place before the public in book form.

The causes which led to this high distinction and those, as well, which established him in the universal esteem and veneration of his compeers, it will be my endeavor faithfully, though but in outline, to trace.

When upwards of forty-two years ago, in January, 1867, I became Reporter of the Supreme Court of Iowa, the Judges composing its bench were John F. Dillon, George G. Wright, Ralph P. Lowe and Chester C. Cole. The Court then ranked as one of the strongest in the nation and its decisions were held in high esteem. Under the then existing law it became the duty of the Reporter to be present at each session of the Court for the purpose of observing the proceedings and hearing the arguments of counsel, with the view of his gaining thereby a more accurate knowledge of the cases he was to report. The Court, so to speak, was perambulatory, for while its principal sessions were held at the capital, Des Moines, both spring and fall terms were held respectively at Davenport and Dubuque, whither the Reporter went with the Judges. In this wise it was my good fortune to come in personal touch and association with the Judges, and thus began my personal acquaintance with Judge Dillon.

I may be pardoned for these self-allusions. I make them as tending to show my acquaintance with the personality as well as the career of which I purpose to write.

In the execution of this purpose I shall confine myself to an impartial narration of the leading circumstances and achievements of his life; for upon these, aided by the judgment of his contemporaries, rather than upon the tributes of a friendly biographer, must rest all proper estimates concerning him.

At the time of which I have spoken, Judge Dillon was thirty-six years of age; in the very flush of his splendid manhood. In figure he was rather above the medium height; rotund in person, placid in temperament, active but not nervous in movement. His features were strikingly attractive and well chiseled, though, much to his disadvantage, as I always thought, partially concealed by a full beard, save the upper lip which was always cleanly shaven. His ample



head was well poised on shapely shoulders; his forehead broad and full; his hair dark, his nose prominent, his upper lip wide and handsomely curved, his mouth firm and characteristic; his dark eyes, deeply set under heavy brows, full, lustrous and penetrating. His whole expression beamed with the superbly intellectual, patient, kindly, but heroic forces which unflinchingly supplied him.

In the latter period of his life his appearance had somewhat changed, from the inroads of time, from his having adopted an entirely full beard which had faded from its dark hue to one of gray, from the effects of long years of close and trying intellectual labors, and, more than all, from the unspeakable grief flowing from the loss of his devoted wife and daughter, who perished at sea while making passage to Europe on the ill-fated French liner, *La Bourgogne*, in 1898.

But his mind relaxed not in the least its pristine vigor. He kept up his daily office rounds, and continued in the performance of professional and literary work of the greatest importance until a very advanced age, as we shall hereinafter see.

His manner on the bench, while not lacking in firmness or dignity, was considerably urbane on all occasions and under all circumstances. He seemed to be utterly devoid of that acerbity of temper and precipitancy of action which occasionally mar the Judicial Office. In return he was respected and beloved by the entire bar, and by the suitors and witnesses who came before him. Counting in round numbers he was on the bench twenty-one years; five on the State District bench, six on that of the State Supreme Court, and ten on that of the United States Circuit Court for the Eighth Judicial Circuit.

Though born in the State of New York he was essentially a product of Iowa. He came here as a child. His home was in Davenport. Here he lived for forty-one years, until his removal to the City of New York. His affection for Davenport and indeed for all of Iowa and her institutions, was constant and profound, and no man did more to build substantially and strong their foundations. In 1838 Iowa was organ-

ized as a territory out of what was previously a part of the territory of Wisconsin. In that year the family, attracted by the possibilities of the distant west, removed from their eastern home to Davenport, then but an unorganized village or settlement on the Mississippi. As the interior of Iowa was then for the most part an unbroken wilderness, and Davenport but an outpost of civilization, his means of education were necessarily limited. He had, however, the irrepressible instincts of a scholar and that insatiable thirst for knowledge which deeply characterized his whole life, and brought forth fruits which will durably perpetuate his name.

His original purpose, like that of his distinguished associate, the late Mr. Justice Miller of the Supreme Court of the United States, was to be a physician; and, indeed, such was the actual calling of both for a time. He commenced the study of medicine when but seventeen years of age, and two years thereafter, in 1850, was graduated as a physician at the College of Physicians and Surgeons at Davenport. In June of that year he was one of the regular physicians of the State who met at Burlington to organize the Iowa State Medical Society. The organizers of this Society, many of whom had already gained eminence in their profession, were as follows:

Drs. E. Lowe, G. R. Henry, Phillip Harvey, E. D. Ransom, J. H. Rauch, J. W. Brookbank, H. M. Matthews, Burlington; John F. Sanford, J. C. Hughes, D. L. McGugin, E. R. Ford, Josiah Haines, Keokuk; N. Steele, J. Robinson, J. F. Moberry, Fairfield; *John F. Dillon*, Farmington; J. D. Elbert, J. E. Evans, James Flint, Keosauqua; J. J. Ellison, Wapello; E. G. Fountain, Davenport; J. H. Hershey, George Reeder, Muscatine; M. J. Morseman, Iowa City; W. H. Rosseau, Washington. I have given these names because of their historic interest and because I thought it would pleasantly stir the memories of many who knew or in family converse had heard of, at least some of them.

Judge Dillon is the only survivor of that group, and of the charter members of that Society, which still flourishes. Though then but nineteen years of age, his talents must have attracted the attention of that distinguished body, for



he was elected Librarian of the Society. He also had the honor of writing the first article in the first number of the first medical journal published in Iowa, "The Western Medico-Chirurgical Journal," published at Keokuk. The article is entitled "Rheumatic Carditis, Autopsical Examination, by John Forrest Dillon, M. D., Farmington, Iowa." The foregoing general facts are gathered from the address of Dr. George S. Jenkins, president of the Keokuk College of Physicians and Surgeons, appearing in the February, 1908, number of the "Iowa Medical Journal," published at Des Moines.

Dr. Dillon evidently had a taste and a fitness for the medical profession, and had he remained therein he would undoubtedly have attained high professional rank. How the shift from medicine to law came about we shall presently see. In tracing his early life we happily meet along the line occasional autobiographical sprinklings that serve authentically to light the way and invest the narrative with a charm that would be wanting in the mere recitals of a biographer. I will, therefore, in great measure let them tell this part of the story.

Dr. Jenkins, in preparing the address hereinbefore referred to, wrote to Judge Dillon for some data respecting himself and his early connection with the Society. In response he received the following letter from Judge Dillon which I am sure will of itself invest this sketch with interest:

NEW YORK, February 1, 1907.

PROF. GEORGE F. JENKINS, M. D.

KEOKUK, IOWA.

My Dear Doctor:—

I duly received your letter stating that you expect to make an address before the Iowa State Medical Society at its next meeting in which you will consider the history of that society since 1850, when the society was formed, down to the present. You remind me in your letter that I was one of the charter members of the first Iowa State Medical Society, organized in Burlington in June, 1850, and that I was for a time connected with the medical profession in the State, and you ask me for some personal recollections in respect of that meeting and of my own connections with the medical profession.

I feel sure that anything I can say will have very little intrinsic value and I fear very little interest to the members of the profes-

sion who are now upon the scene fifty-seven years distant. I shall make my response as brief as I can and you may use any portion of the same that you may deem suitable to the purposes of the occasion.

I was born in the State of New York on December 25, 1831. My father moved with his family, of which I was the eldest, to Davenport, Iowa, in July, 1838, I being then a little less than seven years of age. I lived in Davenport from that time until 1879, when I came to New York to accept a professorship of law in Columbia University and the position of general counsel of the Union Pacific Railroad Company.

I commenced the study of medicine when about seventeen years of age in the office of Dr. E. S. Barrows, at Davenport, Iowa. Dr. Barrows was a prominent physician and successful surgeon, having been a surgeon in the United States Army in the Seminole Indian war. He had wonderful skill in diagnosis and was a bold and successful practitioner. He made very little use in his ordinary practice of any other remedies but calomel, blue mass, Dover's powder and compound cathartic pills.

A year or so after I entered the office of Dr. Barrows as a student, was formed the Rock Island Medical School, the prototype or original, as I understand it, of the present College of Physicians and Surgeons of Keokuk, Iowa, of which you are President.

I attended one course of lectures at Rock Island. The next year the college was removed to Davenport, Iowa, where I attended a second course and was regularly graduated in the spring of 1850 an M. D.

The professors as a body were able men, some of them men of great learning and even genius. Abler teachers than Professor Richards, who taught Practice, Professor Sanford who taught Surgery and Professor Armor who taught Physiology, it would have been difficult to find in the chairs of any contemporary medical institution.

I happened to attend the first meeting of the Iowa Medical Society in 1850, at Burlington, in this way. Having been graduated I desired to seek a place in which to practice my profession and I consulted Professor Sanford, having an admiration and affection for him. He said, "I have lived many years in Farmington, Van Buren County, a small place on the Des Moines river, but my duties in connection with the medical college are such that I have resolved to change my residence and follow the college to Keokuk." Dr. Sanford had obtained great celebrity as a surgeon and indeed had outgrown the little town of Farmington. He suggested to me that his leaving Farmington would create a vacancy which would perhaps make that town a desirable place for me in which to locate. When I reflect that I was really under twenty years of age,



without experience, the idea that I could go to Farmington and occupy in any degree the place which Dr. Sanford left seems now to me almost amusing. I resolved, however, to take his advice and so arranged my journey from Davenport to Farmington as to enable me to attend the first meeting of the Iowa Medical Society in Burlington in June, 1850.

After the lapse of fifty and seven years I distinctly recall that meeting and I regarded it then, as I have regarded it ever since, as an assemblage of men of remarkable learning and ability. Among those present were Sanford, Hughes, McGugin, Henry, Elbert, Fountain, Haines, Lowe, Ransom, Rauch, all distinguished names.

My exchequer was far from plethoric and I was obliged to practice strict economy. I rented for an office a small brick building on the crumbling bank of the Des Moines river, one story high, about twenty feet square, in a dilapidated condition, at a cost of \$4.00 per month. I engaged board and lodging at a boarding house kept by Mrs. Corwin, where I made my home during the three or four months I remained at Farmington at a cost of \$3.50 per week. Among the boarders was a young lawyer by the name of Howe, who had resided in Farmington some little time. We became well acquainted and spent nearly every evening walking up and down the banks of the Des Moines river, speculating upon what the future had in reserve for us. He was almost as destitute of clients as I was of patients.

There were at least two old established physicians in this little place, Dr. Barton and Dr. Lane. How could a young man under twenty years of age expect to find employment under these circumstances unless both of these physicians were engaged or out of the place? I will mention one case with a little particularity since it was epochal, having had the effect of changing the whole current and career of my life. On the hills near Farmington, about two miles distant, there was a large brick yard. On a hot August day the men worked hard, and their skin being relaxed and their appetite vigorous, they ate a hearty supper, when a cool and grateful breeze sprang up and swept the valley. These workmen sat out in it, became chilled and two or three hours afterwards were seized with violent attacks of cholera morbus. They sent post haste to town for a physician, but both Dr. Barton and Dr. Lane were absent and there was nothing to do but to call on me. I had no horse or buggy of my own and if I had, <sup>x had</sup> I would have found it difficult to ~~have driven~~ over the rough roads, and as I had been troubled with inguinal hernia for many years, I could not ride on horseback. The last time I attempted to do so nearly cost me my life. There was no alternative but <sup>x</sup> to walk to the brick yard where I found the men in great suffering, requiring liberal doses of laudanum and stimulants and my personal attention for several hours. Weary and exhausted I

x had had,

sought my way home on foot, and I saw the sun rising over the eastern hills just as I was reaching my lodgings. Maybe it was the sun of Austerlitz but I didn't so regard it at that time.

Two or three years ago when Dr. Lorenz of Vienna was in this country he took lunch with myself and several gentlemen, one of whom mentioned I had formerly been a physician, whereupon Dr. Lorenz evinced curiosity to know why I had left the profession, and I proceeded to give him the narrative that I am now relating. When I had finished one of the gentlemen said, "Now that you have told all about this there is one thing you have not mentioned, did these men live or die?" to which I responded, "That question has been more than once asked but I have always evaded an answer."

This night's experience set me thinking and the next evening when young lawyer Howe and myself were taking our regular walk up and down the banks of the Des Moines river I turned to him and said, "Howe, I have made a great mistake, I cannot practice medicine in this country without being able to ride on horseback, which I am utterly unable to do. I might as well admit the mistake and turn my mind to something else. I shall read law. Tell me, what is the first book that a student of the law requires?" He answered, "Blackstone's Commentaries." "Have you got them?" He replied, "Yes, I have them and the Iowa Blue book of laws, and those are the only books I have." He was kind enough to loan me his Blackstone and I began at once to read law in my little dilapidated office.

Another event in my brief medical career at Farmington is chronicled in the first number of the *Medico-Chirurgical Journal of Keokuk*, of September 1, 1850. It is the first article and first number of that publication, entitled, "Rheumatic Carditis, Autopsical Examination, by John Forrest Dillon, M. D., Farmington, Iowa," thus connecting me in a slight way with the earliest medical literature of the State.

On inquiry of the present officers of the Keokuk Medical College I learned that they had no copy of the publication and I only succeeded in obtaining one through the kindness and courtesy of the Historical Department of Iowa.

I shall not undertake to re-state the substance of that article; briefly outlined it is this: A laborer on the public works at the small town of Croton, about five miles distant from Farmington, suddenly died under circumstances that led to a very general belief among the people of Croton that he died from malpractice. The postmortem examination disclosed, however, that he died of apoplexy caused by hypertrophy of the heart. The heart was found to be nearly double the normal size and double the weight. It fell to my lot after conducting the examination to take the organ in my hand and



explain to the excited citizens the cause of the death and thus allay public excitement. The article concluded as follows:

"Before taking my departure from Croton, I took occasion to give the botanic physician some salutary advice—adverted to the unenviable predicament in which his ignorance had plunged him, and endeavored to inspire him with a love for scientific knowledge, by following the example of Le Maitre de Philosophie, in a Comedie of the celebrated Moliere, in which he endeavors to impress the truth of the following sentiment upon the mind of Monsieur Jourdain 'sans la science, la vie est presque une image de la mort.' Whether I succeeded in convincing him of it, so readily as was the case with Le Bourgeoise gentilhomme, the future must determine.

I have drawn up this hasty sketch of the above case for two prominent reasons; in the first place to present your readers with some additional testimony confirmatory of the frequent connection between arthritic and cardiac disease; and in the second place, to illustrate the great benefit often derivable from necroscopic examination. The one is frequently overlooked, the other too sadly neglected."

In the fall of 1850 I concluded to return to Davenport where my mother and sister lived and take up my home with them and utilize my little knowledge of drugs and medicine and get a livelihood by opening a small drug store, which would also afford leisure time to enable me to read law. This I continued to do until the spring of 1852, when I applied for admission to the bar of the District Court of Scott County, Iowa, and on motion of Mr. Austin Corbin, a man very well-known afterwards in Iowa and elsewhere, I was admitted. The same year I was elected prosecuting attorney for the county and practiced law in Scott and adjoining counties until 1858, when I was elected Judge of the District Court of the Seventh Judicial District for the Counties of Muscatine, Scott, Clinton and Jackson; re-elected four years afterwards. Was then transferred to the Supreme bench of the State and was re-elected six years afterwards. Before qualifying for my second term I was appointed by President Grant, United States Circuit Judge for the Eighth Judicial Circuit, comprising the States of Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, Arkansas, Kansas, Nebraska, and afterwards Colorado. I held the last mentioned office for ten years, until 1879, when I resigned the same to accept the professorship of law at Columbia University and removed east, where I have ever since practiced my profession. I find the little knowledge that I acquired of medicine and its principles not only to be a great satisfaction to me throughout my life but at times to be of utility, and I maintained a nominal connection with the medical profession until about the period when I came to New York by delivering each year lectures on medical jurisprudence at the Iowa

*\* have for*

University to the combined law and medical classes of that institution.

I fear the foregoing is a weary waste of way but I relieve myself of all responsibility because you asked me for it and because you are under no compulsion to use the same, except so far as it may meet the purposes of the occasion for which you desire it. It gratifies me exceedingly to know that the small gathering at the first Medical Society in 1850 has grown into 2,000 members, and I wish with all my heart the Iowa State Medical Society a long and continued career of usefulness. I am, dear Doctor,

Very sincerely yours,

JOHN F. DILLON.

In the further utilization of autobiographical data touching his early life, as well as the primitive conditions and character of the times, which necessarily constitute a part of his environments, I give the following excerpts from a letter written by him to the editor of *The Davenport Democrat* in October, 1905, on the occasion of the semi-centennial of that paper:

You remind me that I am a Davenport, and ask me to send you for the Half-Century number reminiscences of Davenport of 1855 and of an earlier day,—not history, which you say your readers can look up for themselves, but something personal concerning myself and others. If what I shall say has too personal a flavor, put not the blame on me but yourself. \* \* \* \* Yes; you are right! I am a Davenport and always expect to be in my memories, my sentiments and my affections. It was my home and my only home for the long period of 41 years—from early boyhood to beyond the meridian of life. Though absent it is and will ever remain to me the city of the heart. What wonderful changes, general and local, have I witnessed! In 1831, the year of my birth, what is now known as Iowa was an uninhabited region filled with savages. In 1837, my father left his young family in Herkimer county, New York, and in company with his brother-in-law, John Forrest, sought a home in the far West and finally fixed upon Davenport, and in August, 1838, my father brought his family to Davenport, and thus became one of the pioneer settlers. In 1839, when the town was incorporated, my father became one of the first trustees or councilmen of the infant place. Its population at that time probably did not number 500 people. Such was the humble beginning of the present large and prosperous city of Davenport.

Though I well remember, I shall not recount the privations and struggles of the early settlers for many years after 1838. Money was there almost none. Everything was done on a traffic or trade



basis. My father kept a hotel on the bank of the river near Western Avenue, for the accommodation of travelers and especially of the farmers in the surrounding country, who, coming to town with their produce or on business, had to remain over night. The standard charge for supper, lodging and breakfast for man, and stable accommodation for beast for the night, was 50 cents, for which we were paid not in money, but in store orders on Burrows, or Burrows & Prettyman, Charles Lesslie, or other merchants who bought the farmers' produce, "payable in store goods." I well recollect this, for it fell to my lot to help take care of the farmers' horses, and to take in my hand the store orders, go to the store for sugar, coffee, or what not, have the amount of each purchase endorsed on the order, and to carry home the articles purchased. We were passing through the hard times of 1837.

In the campaign of 1840, "Tippecanoe and Tyler too," General Harrison was elected president on the alluring cry of "two dollars and roast beef." Davenport, thrilled with the excitement of the hard cider campaign, built a log cabin at the southeast corner of Third and Harrison streets, which was used afterwards for a schoolhouse and in which I attended school. When my grandfather, Timothy Dillon, with his family followed my father to Davenport in 1840, he brought some silver money with him, and he gave to me a new coined silver dime, the first I ever saw. How rich I felt! It was many years afterwards before business got on a cash basis. Not long ago there still remained on the Iowa side opposite Moline and its mills a warehouse with a conspicuous sign, "Cash for Wheat." This meant at that time a good deal more than the passing traveler of today would think. It meant that at last the time had come when the farmer could get cash and not merely store goods.

During the period of 1838 to 1841, the *Iowa Sun*, a small weekly Democratic sheet, was the only newspaper, but like the greater *Sun* of a later date in New York, the *Iowa Sun* shone for all. The first number was issued in the very month my father and his family arrived in Davenport. Andrew Logan was proprietor and editor, and his sons set up the paper, and carried it around the streets on publication day and sold it. It was as eagerly sought for as the *Democrat* of today. I hope your anniversary number will contain from some correspondent a fitting notice of the *Sun* and its proprietor, Andrew Logan. He did a good work in his day. The last time I saw him was in 1858, at the first annual meeting of the Pioneer Settlers' Association of Scott County.

The *Sun* continued to shine until 1841, which year marked the advent to Davenport of Alfred Sanders and Levi Davis, and the establishment of a Whig newspaper—the *Davenport Gazette*—with which these gentlemen from the first, and later Gen. Add. H. Sanders, were so long, honorably and usefully connected. The *Gazette* was

afterwards absorbed by the more prosperous *Democrat*, but it was, throughout its existence, a most respectable and influential paper, ably edited, and standing always for the right as Alfred and Addison Sanders saw the right.

I have many pleasant memories of the *Gazette*—too many to recount. I saw the press when it landed. I have seen Levi Davis, after setting up the type and working off the paper, carry it around the streets to distribute and sell. I have sat hour after hour in the press room and watched Levi Davis wet down the paper, put it on the old Franklin hand press, and himself work it off, sheet after sheet, on one side, and the next day repeat the same process on the other side. The proprietors were very proud of the record of their paper, and justly so. In 1858, at the Old Settlers' meeting, I heard Alfred Sanders (who was an elocutionist, and who gave lessons in elocution gratis to young men, myself included) swell with pride when, in sonorous voice, speaking of the pioneer press of Scott County, he exclaimed:

"With pride I say it—as I presume it to be the only instance on record in the West—that although we had to purchase all our paper and material in the East, and have them brought out by the slow and tedious course of the Ohio and Mississippi rivers, and although we had our paper sunk, and burned, and delayed by accidents, and although my assistants were sick, and I alone had to fill every department of the paper—editorial, typesetting, working the press, and rolling the paper, yet during the sixteen and a half years I have controlled the *Gazette*, it never has missed a single number."

It may be expected, perhaps, that I shall say something concerning the old and early bar of Davenport. A few words must suffice. Of the earliest territorial bar of Iowa, say from 1837 to 1846, its high order of ability has often been remarked,—for example, Grimes, Starr, Rorer, Mason, Hall, Darwin, Browning of Burlington; Hastings, Lowe, Woodward, Richman of Muscatine; Folsom, Byington, Carleton of Iowa City; Leffingwell of Lyons; Platt Smith, Hempstead, Bissell, Samuels of Dubuque; Smythe of Marion; Knapp, Wright of Keosauqua; Love, Beck, D. F. Miller of Lee County, etc., etc.

In Davenport we had Judge Grant, Judge Mitchell, Ebenezer Cook, and afterward John P. Cook, who were, in all respects, the peers of the Iowa lawyers above named. The semi-annual terms of court in Davenport were also regularly attended by Knox and Drury of Rock Island, and often by lawyers from other places. Court week, to hear the lawyers plead, ranked with the annual circus as one of the few entertainments possible in this new and distant region. In early life I have spent many an hour in the old brick courthouse on Fourth street, listening to the trial of cases, at a time when I had



no fixed purpose of becoming a lawyer myself. Every day I used to see the erect form of Ebenezer Cook as he passed my father's house, walking to and fro, cane in hand, between his home on the Cook farm and his office in the town. One day he was kind enough to stop and say to my mother that when I was old enough he wished me to enter his office and become a lawyer, which (after a detour by way of Dr. Barrow's office and a short course of medical instruction) came to pass in 1851. In 1850 and 1851 I studied law by myself whilst keeping, for a livelihood, a small drug store at the corner of Third and Brady. I had no instructor or aid in my studies. As a law student I was never in a law office or law school. Of law schools there were but few in the country at the time, and none within my reach or means. I recollect when reading in Kent about mortgages, I wished to see the form of such a document, and that I was compelled to walk down to the courthouse, where Hiram Price was the recorder, and there had, on the records, my first inspection of this important instrument.\* In 1851, Austin Corbin came to Davenport, bearing with him a letter of introduction to me from Judge Grant, who was holding court in Dubuque. In May, 1852, Corbin moved my admission to the bar. The last time I saw him in New York, just before his tragic accidental death, he pleasantly admonished me, as we parted at the corner of Cortlandt and Broadway: "John, don't forget I am your godfather in the law."

The old bar of Scott county by 1855, and soon afterward, had been much enlarged, and contained lawyers whose ability and character are an honor and an ornament to the city, the State, and the profession. I cannot name them all, but may mention Davison, True, Hubbell, Lane, Bills, Putnam, Rogers, Corbin, Dow, Cook, Waterman, French—and there were many others.

Noted as the bar of Davenport has ever been for its character, talents and learning, the present bar may look back with a sort of ancestral pride upon the first and oldest bar: Knox, the most eloquent jury lawyer I have ever heard; Drury, the judicious counsellor; Grant, the intrepid and fearless advocate; Mitchell, the comprehensive and well poised lawyer; Ebenezer Cook, whose judgment on legal questions and problems was as sure-footed as that of any man I ever knew; John P. Cook, a natural born trial lawyer, aggressive, bold, courageous, who, like General Taylor, was generally victorious, and who, like him, never knew when he was whipped.

\*Colonel J. H. Benton, one of the leaders of the New England bar, in speaking recently of Judge Dillon said:

"He told me many years ago that when he was reading Kent, trying to learn law, he did not get a clear idea of what a mortgage was and in order to do so went to the courthouse, asked permission to look at the Register of Mortgages in order to copy one and did copy it in full, and then he said to me, 'I *knew* what a mortgage was; I had read it and handled it.'"

"This," says Colonel Benton, "impressed me very much and I used it in my lectures in the law schools as an illustration of the qualities of mind which make a man a great lawyer, that is what I call the *instinct of the concrete*."

Along the same lines and as further showing his deep and abiding affection for Iowa and for all that concerns her welfare, the following extract is given from the address delivered by him on the invitation of the faculty before the graduating class of the law department of the Iowa State University in 1893:

Coming once more into the State, and into this academic city, with whose University not a little of my uneventful career has been connected, the memories and associations of half a century, re-awakened and refreshed, throng around me! I recall the happy days, when a barefoot boy with stone bruised feet I hunted carnelians on the shores of the Mississippi, swam and sailed and fished in its waters, and skated upon its frozen and burnished surface. Fifty years ago in a spring that issued from its banks, I saw mirrored the first eclipse of the sun my youthful eyes ever beheld. The Indians were then more numerous than the white men. The wolf's long howl was a familiar sound. Behold the wonderful contrast and transformation!—the Iowa of 1838 and the Iowa of 1893! When the Supreme Court of the State was held in yonder building—the old Capitol,—I argued therein with fear and trembling my first causes—*Stanchfield vs. Palmer* (4 G. Greene's Rep. 23, 1853), and *McManus vs. Carmichael* (3 Iowa Rep. 1, 1856). In my judicial capacity I have held courts in this city in exchange with your former fellow citizen, Judge William E. Miller. I was afterwards honored with an appointment as one of the Regents of this University, and for several years, and down to the date of my removal from the State, I filled the chair of Medical Jurisprudence, lecturing to the combined Law and Medical classes. I therefore feel as you may well suppose a deep and abiding interest in all that concerns the weal of the State and its University. Their growth and prosperity truly rejoice me. I know and feel that they are a large part of my own life, and I love to cherish the pleasing hope, however illusory it may be, that in some humble, albeit unperceived degree, I, too, am some part of their history. I never come into the State of my love and affection without going down to the banks of the great river, there to meditate in age where I sported in youth, and to dip my hands lovingly into its waters and therewith bathe and cool my fevered brow.

For the same purpose and as throwing additional light upon his early years I give the following excerpt from his address at the dedication of the Davenport Free Public Library in May, 1904:



From early boyhood Davenport was my home. "The mystic chords of memory" here bind me to the past by the sweetest and the saddest of ties. Other days and scenes involuntarily rise before me. I see the little town of 1838 with its few hundred people, without schools, without libraries, without many of the comforts and with few of the luxuries of modern life, when the Indians were thicker than white men, when packs of wolves coming out on the ice from the island below the town were a familiar sight and their long, dismal howl a familiar sound. The earliest school was kept in a small log cabin near the river below Western Avenue by the aged father of Alexander W. McGregor. There it was that I received from him my earliest lesson in astronomy. In those days the banks of the stream abounded in springs. With our hands we scooped out the sand and gravel, rudely walled up the space, and behold there was living water bubbling up from below at which we slaked our thirst, the girls mediately by the use of a gourd cup, the boys immediately by laying down flat and drinking directly from the crystal spring. A partial eclipse of the sun occurred near mid-day and the teacher, good, albeit severe, having no smoked glass in readiness, led us to the spring, showed us the sun in eclipse mirrored in the waters, and explained as best he could the wonderful phenomenon. It was a miracle to us small boys then, and it seems to me to be a miracle still that finite man on this atom of the Universe called the Earth, which to the inhabitants of the planet in the eclipse would seem no larger than the diamond that sparkles on a lady's finger,—can foretell years and years ahead the very day and hour when such a phenomenon will recur or appear.

Later some years and before there were any public schools in Iowa, on the very site where this library edifice stands, a school for girls and boys was kept by James Thoringtón. For his kindly nature I hold his name in affectionate remembrance. This school I attended with many other pupils, and among them one\* who in after years was actively connected with the Davenport Library Association and to whom that institution, next to Mrs. Clarissa C. Cook, is as much if not more indebted than to anyone else, but who, though the heart and memory are fraught with tender and insurgent recollections, shall be nameless in this connection further than to say that the Trustees of the new building have fitly voted to place the portrait of this rare and gifted woman upon its walls.

And now, when everything is changed except the overarching sky, the majestic river and the encompassing hills, when the small town of those early days has grown into a city of 40,000 people, a city of wondrous beauty, prosperous, well ordered, well governed and with undimmed hopes for the future, it has the good fortune to

\*Anna Price, afterward Mrs. Dillon.

become and be the owner of this noble structure, consecrated to noble ends. \* \* \*

The distinct personal note which I find runs through these remarks I have sought neither to encourage nor repress. It seemed natural under the circumstances, and I feel confident that your friendship will not ascribe it either to the reminiscential propensity of age or to personal vanity, but will rather regard it as spontaneous and not unfitting in an address to my former fellow-townsmen and to friends of a lifetime. As recollections of the past must percolate through the memory they are necessarily flavored by the character of the soil through which they have passed, and this quality I have made no attempt to neutralize or eliminate.

These delightful papers throw a flood of light on his personality and character, and it only remains to summarize the events thus disclosed and place them with others not yet told in their proper settings.

In 1850 he commenced the study of law. In 1852 he was admitted to the bar, and soon thereafter became associated with John P. Cook, one of the most widely known and distinguished lawyers of the State, under the firm name of Cook & Dillon. In the same year he was elected prosecuting attorney of Scott County. He displayed abilities of a high order. As a result he was chosen by the Republicans in 1858 as their candidate and elected by an overwhelming majority of the people Judge of the District Court of the Seventh Judicial District. He performed the duties of this position with such signal ability and general satisfaction, that at the end of his term he was requested by the entire bar, without distinction of party, to accept another term and was elected thereto without opposition. In 1863 his exalted abilities and supreme fitness for high judicial position had become so conspicuous that in the fall election of that year, he was chosen Judge of the Supreme Court of the State for a term of six years, to accept which he resigned his position on the District bench. In 1869 he was re-elected for another term. Before qualifying therefor he was appointed by President Grant, and confirmed by the Senate, Judge of the United States Circuit Court for the Eighth Judicial Circuit, comprising the States of Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, Missouri, Kansas, Arkansas and, soon after, Colorado.



After a decade of the most distinguished service on the Federal bench, in the fall of 1879, he tendered his resignation to accept the position of Professor of Real Estate and Equity Jurisprudence in the Law School of Columbia College, and that of General Counsel of the Union Pacific Railroad tendered him at the same time. This resulted in his removal to New York, and thus ended his official and professional career in the State which he so deeply loved and had so highly honored. Let us briefly review it before touching upon subsequent events.

For the repeated honors which had been bestowed upon him he was indebted to no political stratagems. His rapid advancements did not spring from that source. They were gained by the steady display of those superlative qualities that inhere in and, as it were, create great lawyers and judges, and of which the instinct of unremitting toil is the greatest. He recognized with Carlyle that "there is a perennial nobleness and even sacredness in work," and that rare excellence can be attained only by its exercise. A more constant observance of these principles has rarely been so well exemplified in any other public man.

Of his labors on the State District bench and the superior abilities he there displayed as a *nisi prius* Judge, no attestation need be added to those carried in what has already been said.\* While Judge of that Court he prepared and gave to the profession the first Digest of Iowa Reports, known as "Dillon's Digest." How this came about he once related to me, and as it illustrates the searching industry and thoroughness he gave to every undertaking, I give that relation. He told me that when he was elected District Judge he entered upon the careful study of each and every case that had been before and decided by the Supreme Court, as they appeared in the Reports, making notes as he proceeded and placing each under its appropriate head. That his sole purpose in doing this was to familiarize himself with what the Court had decided in order that he might not run contrary thereto, and be

\*No less authority than Judge Henry C. Caldwell has said of him, that he was the best *nisi prius* judge he had ever seen on the bench. ANNALS OF IOWA, 3d Series, Vol. 3, p. 630.

in harmony therewith. That he kept this up and added to it as additional reports appeared. That it then occurred to him that by a little remoulding and enlarging it might be useful to the profession. This he did, and that is the way the lawyers of Iowa came to have what at that time was of the greatest convenience to them. I cannot refrain from remarking as I pass that if all our judges would so qualify themselves we should have far less incongruity in our Jurisprudence.

When at the age of thirty-three he came to be Judge and afterward Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, he brought to that bench, notwithstanding his lack of years, equipments of the highest order; his fitting experience on the District bench; a thorough knowledge of the State, her history and people; a virile and well poised intellect; a thoroughly judicial temperament; a keen and unerring sense of justice; a mind disciplined by years of the closest legal study, and, as the result of scholarly promptings and wide reading, enriched with varied learning.

His opinions from that bench, as well as from that of the United States Circuit Court are, by reason of his name and fame, as well as the general soundness of the opinions themselves, deferred to as authority by all the courts of this country. Those of the State Supreme Court run through fourteen volumes of the Iowa Reports. The first case is that of Welton vs. Tizzard, 15 Iowa (7th of Withrow) 495; the last one Greenwald vs. Metcalf-Graham & Co., 28 Iowa (7th of Stiles) 363. Those of the Federal Court will be found in volumes 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, of Dillon's Circuit Court Reports. There they will stand as perpetual memorials of a great Judge and as beacon lights in judicial history.

(To be Continued.)







your friend & fellow Hawk Eye  
Thomas Wilson

A REVIEW OF DR. WILSON'S SWASTIKA.<sup>1</sup>

BY ALBERT NEWTON HARBERT.

The request for American literature on the Swastika led Dr. Thomas Wilson to make an exhaustive search for information on the subject. Such material as was obtainable concerning the meaning and history of the Swastika, was presented in an interesting form, and as positive evidence was not obtainable, the author makes no attempt at conclusions regarding the time and place of origin of the primitive meaning of the symbol. His paper was published in the *Report of the United States National Museum for 1894*, and as a reprint in 1896.

It is the earliest known symbol, and is itself so simple that it might have originated among any people however primitive, and in any age however remote. The straight line, the circle, the cross, the triangle, are forms easily made, meaning much or little, and different things among different people or at different times among the same people; or they may have had no settled or definite meaning. The normal Swastika consists of four bars of equal length and thickness, crossing each other at right angles, and with ends bent to the right. The symbol was extended and spread over the entire world in prehistoric times, and no other symbol has given rise to so many interpretations.

Many theories have been advanced concerning the symbolism of the Swastika, and its relation to the ancient deities. It is claimed to have been of early Aryan origin, and the emblem or symbol of the supreme Aryan god; that it so continued down the line of descent until it became the symbol of Brahma, and finally of Buddha. The possible migrations of the Swastika, and its general appearance in widely separated countries and among people of different culture, creates the principal

<sup>1</sup>The Swastika, the Earliest Known Symbol, and its Migrations with Observations on the Migration of Certain Industries in Prehistoric Times.

interest on this subject to anthropologists. The modern interest in it as a symbol alone is subsidiary to the question of the cause and manner of its appearance in prehistoric times, in practically all countries. The beginning and first appearance of any of the forms of the Cross is also lost in antiquity, and their meaning unknown.

The word as it has been handed down to us is of Indian origin and has its history and definite meaning in India. It has been called by different names in different countries, but in recent times the ancient Sanskrit name of Swastika has been generally accepted. The definition and etymology of the word is thus given in *Littre's French Dictionary*: (Paris, 1852, p. 625.)

Svastika, or Swastika, a mystic figure used by several (East) Indian sects. It is equally known to the Brahmins as to the Buddhists. Most of the rock inscriptions in the Buddhist caverns in the west of India are preceded or followed by the holy (sacramentell) sign of the Swastika.

Etymology: A Sanskrit word signifying happiness, pleasure, good luck. It is composed of *Su*, "good," and *asti*, "being," "good being," with the suffix *ka*.

In the *Revue d'Ethnographie*, IV., p. 329, 1885, is given the following analysis of the Sanskrit Swastika:

*Su*, radical, signifying *good, well, excellent* or *suvidas*, prosperity.

*Asti*, third person, singular, indicative present of the verb *as*, to be, which is *sum* in Latin.

*Ka*, suffix forming the substantive.

The views of the author as to the possible use of the Swastika are:

I. As a symbol—

- 1, of a religion,
- 2, of a nation or people,
- 3, of a sect with peculiar tenets;

II. As an amulet or charm—

- 1, of good luck, or fortune, or long life,
- 2, of benediction, or blessing,
- 3, against the evil eye;

III. As an ornament or decoration.



The presence of the Swastika on altars, idols, and sepulchral urns, demonstrates the Swastika to have possessed the attribute of a religious symbol. If it was a religious symbol of India and migrated as such in times of antiquity to America, it was necessarily by the hand of man. The people who brought it would have undoubtedly introduced with it the religion it represented, provided the symbol had the same meaning among the aborigines in America as it had in India. The evidence of communication would be strengthened if the Swastika and Buddhism came to America together, however as no trace of the Buddhist religion has been found here, we may conclude that the Swastika came at an earlier date than the development of the Buddhist religion. It was more or less a religious symbol in the ceremonies of the North American Indians, as were the various forms of the Cross. There being no direct evidence available by which the migration of symbols, arts, or peoples in prehistoric times can be proved, because the events are beyond the pale of history, we must resort to secondary evidence of the similarity of conditions and we can only subject them to our reason and determine the truth from the probabilities. The author is of the opinion that the probabilities of the migration of the Swastika to America from the Old World is greater than that it was an independent invention. The Indians make use of the emblem in their bead-work and in their blanket making. It is used in the necklaces and garters by the sun-worshippers, which included the Musquakies and Iowas. These garters are held to be sacred, and only worn on certain religious ceremonies. They call the emblem "luck" or "good luck," and say they have always made that pattern. These Swastika wearers believe in the Great Spirit, who lives in the sun, who creates all things, and is the source of all power and beneficence.

The Swastika has been found on objects of bronze and gold, but the more common form was on the pottery. It appears to have been used more commonly upon the smaller and insignificant objects. In the bronze age in western Europe, including Etruria, it is found on the common objects of life, such as pottery and bronze articles. In Italy on the hut urns in which

the ashes of the dead are buried; in the Swiss lakes stamped in the pottery, in Scandinavia on weapons and swords, and in Scotland on the brooches and pins; in America on the metates for grinding corn, and the Brazilian women wore it on the pottery fig leaf. It was found among the ruined pueblos of the Mesa Verde, in southwestern Colorado, and in the ruined palaces of Yucatan. Among hundreds of patterns of the Swastika belonging to both continents and to all ages, none of them have sought to represent anything else than just what they appear to be—plain marked lines.

What appears to have been at all times an attribute of the Swastika is its character as a charm or amulet, as a sign of benediction, blessing, long life, good fortune, good luck. This belief has been handed down to modern times, and while the Swastika is recognized as a holy and sacred symbol by at least one Buddhist sect, it is used by the common people of India, China and Japan as a sign of long life, good wishes, and good fortune. The Chinese believe it to be good omen to find the Swastika woven by spiders over their fruits and melons.

The author found after making careful comparisons of all the material that had been prepared on the subject, that the Swastika was confined to the common uses, implements, household utensils, and objects of the toilet and personal decorations. The specimens of this kind number a hundred to one of a sacred kind. With this preponderance in favor of the common use, it would seem that, except among the Buddhists and early Christians, and the more or less sacred ceremonies of the North American Indians, all pretenses of the holy or sacred character of the Swastika should be given up, and it should (still with these exceptions) be considered as a charm, amulet, token of good luck or good fortune, or as an ornament and for decoration.

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Among the pioneers of Iowa is associated the name of Thomas Wilson. He was born in New Brighton, Beaver County, Pennsylvania, July 18, 1832, of Quaker parentage.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Okely. *A Pedigree and Family History of the Lineal Descendants of John Okely, of Bedford, England, which dates from about 1650 to the present time. To which is added the collateral branches of de Guylpyn, West and Wade.* Isaac E. Wade, Editor, Pittsburg, Pa., 1899.



THE SWASTIKA





Both on his father's and mother's side he was of North English race, having in his composition both Scottish blood and predilections. In his career he was an example of American life—born on a farm, received a common school education, and then started out to make his way in the world. At the age of sixteen he was apprenticed to a wagon maker, and worked at the trade until he attained his majority. He came west and finally located at Marietta, Iowa, which was regarded as the "far west" in those days, and opened a shop for making heavy plows for breaking prairie.

He was chosen deputy clerk of the district court, and while serving in that capacity turned his attention to the study of law, pursuing his studies after the day's work. His course of studies was completed in the office of Finch and Crocker, in Des Moines, after which he practiced for several years in Marietta, where he was fairly successful. He was an active participant in the contest between Marietta and Marshalltown, which is recorded as one of the most strenuously prosecuted county-seat wars that ever occurred in Iowa, the contesting parties coming dangerously near actual warfare. Marshalltown finally won in the court proceedings (1859), and the once ambitious town of Marietta has now become a productive cornfield.

At the breaking out of the Civil War, he was among the first to respond to the call, serving in the Second Iowa Cavalry and the Forty-fourth Infantry until 1864, when he was mustered out with the brevet rank of colonel. He then settled in Washington, and resumed the practice of his profession, chiefly before the court of claims and the United States

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*Christopher Wilson* [1] according to tradition, was a Quaker preacher of some note in the North of England, perhaps Yorkshire. He visited Maryland prior to 1760. p. 28.

*John Wilson* [2], son of Christopher, married November 14, 1764, Alisanna Webster, sister of Daniel Webster, resided at Stafford, on the Susquehanna river, about five miles from Havre de Grace, Maryland. He died May 29, 1800. p. 64.

*Thomas Wilson* [3], son of John and Alisanna Wilson, born November 1, 1779. Married Sarah Douthitt Sala, nee Douthitt. His death occurred in 1828. p. 65.

*James Wilson* [4], son of Thomas and Sarah Douthitt Sala, born April 12, 1806. Married Lydia Mercer, in 1837. She died February 20, 1885. p. 67. Was a maker of wagons and buggies in New Brighton, Pa. Died at New Galilee, Pa., January 6, 1900.

*Thomas Wilson* [5], son of James and Lydia Wilson, born July 18, 1832. Married Martha Jane Beacon, October 27, 1857. p. 69. His death occurred at Washington, D. C., May 4, 1902.

supreme court, in which he was so successful that he was soon able to retire with a competence.

A desire for foreign travel led to his appointment to a consulate in Ghent, Belgium, in 1881. During his leisure he returned to his archaeological studies, and investigated the cave man and the cave bear of the Mousterian epoch, which were to be found in the immediate vicinity. In 1882 he was transferred to the city of Nantes, and was then brought into immediate connection with the megalithic monuments of Brittany. He was also given access to the original records in the archives of the department, of the trial of Gilles de Retz (or Rais), commonly known as Bluebeard. He was finally transferred to Nice, where he was easily in reach of Switzerland, Italy and southern France. After five years of consular service, he spent two years traveling over Europe, exploring and studying wherever there was a new prehistoric station to be opened or a collection to be examined. He also had opportunity for meeting and working with the noted anthropologists of Europe. He had for many years before going to Europe taken much interest in the study of archaeology, having explored many prehistoric mounds.

After returning to this country, he became curator of the division of prehistoric archaeology in the United States National Museum (1887). Besides the routine of administration, he published monographs, and gave public lectures on anthropological subjects. These publications have given him a permanent place in the literature of American archaeology:

- The Treaty of Ghent.* 1888. New York, Press of J. J. Little & Co.
- Ancient Indian Matting from Petit Anse Island, La.* 1888. Report U. S. National Museum.
- A Study of Prehistoric Anthropology—Hand Book for Beginners.* 1890. Report U. S. National Museum.
- The Palaeolithic Period in the District of Columbia.* 1890. Proc. U. S. National Museum.
- Results of an Inquiry as to the Existence of Man in North America during the Palaeolithic Period of the Stone Age.* 1890. Report U. S. National Museum.
- Criminal Anthropology.* 1891. Smithsonian Report.
- Report on Hygiene and Demography.* 1891. Washington.
- Les Instruments de Pierre Durc en Amerique.* 1892. Paris, Printed by E. Jamin.
- La Periode Palcolithique dans L'Amerique du Norde.* 1892. Paris, Printed by E. Jamin.
- Anthropology at the Paris Exposition in 1889.* 1892. Washington.
- Minute Stone Implements from India.* 1894. Report U. S. National Museum.



- Primitive Industry.* 1894. Smithsonian Report.
- On the Process of Flourine as a test for the Fossilization of Animal Bones.* 1895. American Naturalist.
- The Golden Patera of Rennes.* 1896. Report U. S. National Museum.
- The Swastika, the Earliest Known Symbol, and its Migrations; with observations on the Migration of certain industries in Prehistoric times.* 1894. Report U. S. National Museum, and reprint 1896.
- A Classification of Arrow or Spear Heads or Knives.* 1897. Antiquarian, Columbus, Ohio.
- The Antiquity of the Red Race in America.* 1897. Report U. S. National Museum.
- Prehistoric Art; or the Origin of Art as manifested in the works of Prehistoric Man.* 1898. Report U. S. National Museum.
- Blue-Beard A Contribution to History and Folk-Lore. Being the History of Gilles de Retz of Brittany, France, who was executed at Nantes in 1440 A. D., and who was the original of Blue-Beard in the Tales of Mother Goose.* 1899. New York and London. G. P. Putnam's Sons.
- Arrowpoints, Spearheads, and Knives of Prehistoric Times.* 1899. Report U. S. National Museum.
- The Beginnings of the Science of Prehistoric Anthropology.* 1899. Chemical Publishing Co., Easton, Pa.
- Lahaute anciennete de l'homme dans l'Amerique du Nord.* 1901. Paris, L'Anthropologie.
- Arrow Wounds.* 1901. New York. American Anthropologist.
- Classification des pointes de fleches, des pointes des lances et des couteaux en Pierre.* 1902. Paris, Masson et Cie.
- Communication to the Congres International d'Anthropologie et d'Archéologie Prehistoriques.* 1902. Paris, Masson et Cie.
- Information for the Guidance of Explorers and Collectors.* Proc. U. S. National Museum, Vol. XI.
- Description of Exhibit made by the Department of Prehistoric Anthropology in the National Museum at the Ohio Valley and Central States Expositon in Cincinnati, Ohio.* 1888. Proc. U. S. National Museum.
- Sur la Statistique du Crime dans Les Etats-Unis de L'Amerique du Nord.* n. p. n. d.

Among the scientific organizations with which he was associated are the following:

Anthropological Society of Washington; the American Folk-Lore Society; the Societe d'Anthropologie de Paris; the Anthropological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland; the Societe d'Anthropologie de Bruxelles; the Societe d'Archeologie de Nantes; and the Archaeological and Asiatic Association of Nevada, Iowa. He was also a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science; a member of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion and of the American Oriental Society; a commander of the Order of Isabella of Spain; and an officer of the Order of Leopold. He also held a professorship in the National University with the title of LL. D.

Thomas Wilson was a broad minded man, and made a success of everything he undertook. His death occurred in Washington on May 4, 1902.

LAYING THE FOUNDATIONS.<sup>1</sup>BY CHARLES E. BESSEY.<sup>2</sup>

A half century seems like a long time to us today, and yet I shall have to ask you to go back a little further still to find the beginnings of this college, when a few earnest men secured the passage of a bill by the legislature providing for the selection of a proper site on which to build an agricultural college. Among these early advocates of the college was Suel Foster of Muscatine. I remember him as a spare little man with a sparkling eye, and a quick, incisive speech. Always in earnest, always thinking of the good of the community, not self-seeking, he was a model citizen. Well might this college erect a memorial tablet in his honor, and plant an oak tree to keep green his memory. On the tablet inscribe the words:

SUEL FOSTER:

PIONEER, PATRIOT,  
LOVER OF TREES AND FRUITS,  
ADVOCATE  
OF  
AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION,  
FRIEND OF THE COLLEGE.

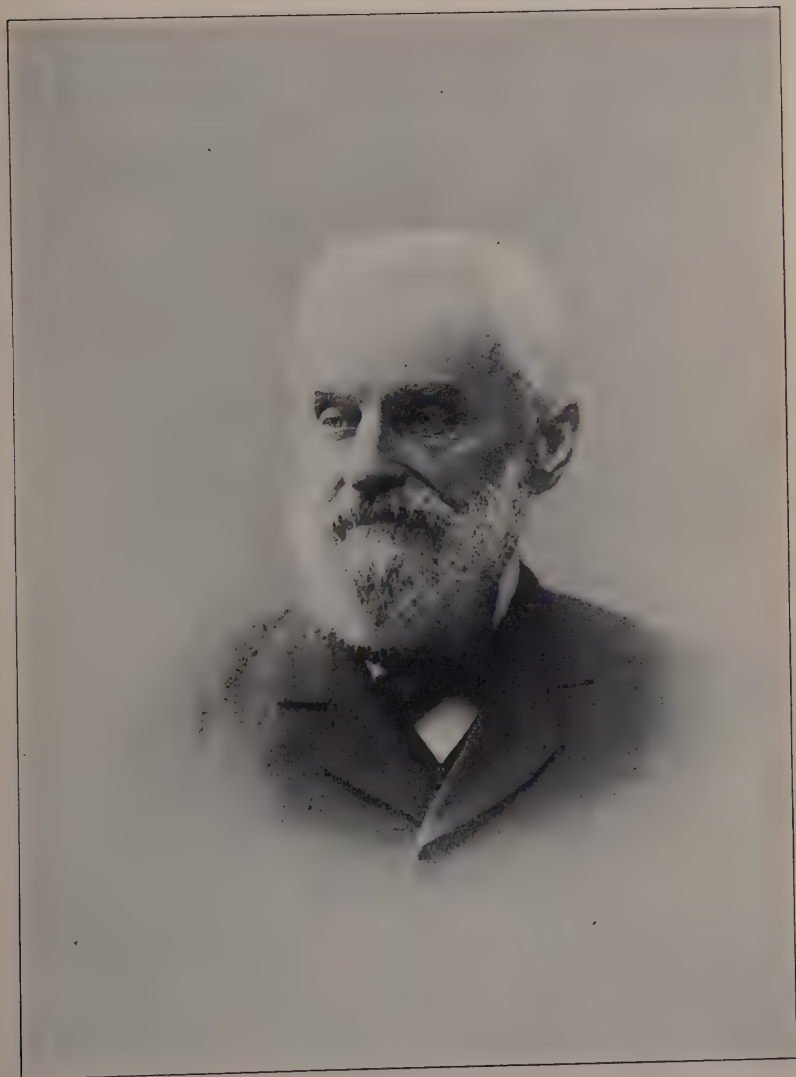
On the tree you plant place the simple label,

## THE SUEL FOSTER OAK

and as the years come and go its growth and virescence shall serve to remind us that such lives as his live in their good deeds. The spirit of this pioneer still lives on this beautiful campus, and here we should perennially honor his memory.

<sup>1</sup>The "College Day" Address delivered in the college chapel, October 20, 1908, at the fortieth anniversary of the opening of the Iowa State College.

<sup>2</sup>Charles Edwin Bessey was born on a farm, Milton Wayne county, Ohio, May 21, 1845, graduated Mich. Agri. Coll. 1869; Ph. D. Univ. of Iowa, 1879; LL. D., Iowa Coll., 1898; studied with Dr. Asa Gray, Harvard, 1872-3 and 1875-6. Prof. botany Iowa Agri. Coll., 1870-84 (acting pres., 1882); Prof. botany Univ. of Neb. since 1884 (acting chancellor 1888-91 and 1899-1900, and 1907); author of many scientific books, papers and reviews.



ADONIJAH S. WELCH  
President Iowa State College 1869-1883





It is a matter of history that when it came to selecting a site for the college the committee was divided between those who favored this site, and those who preferred another a few miles east of the city of Des Moines, and Suel Foster told me that it was his vote that brought the committee to favor this location. For many years it seemed that the other would have been the better site, and there were many who ridiculed and denounced the selection, for no place in the State seemed to be more hopelessly isolated. Think of planning to set down a college in a thinly settled part of the State, away from the railroad, and separated from a miserable little village by the almost impassable "bottoms" of an uncontrollable prairie stream. It required a faith like that which can move mountains, to see in this remote site the beauty which now greets the eye. And no doubt Suel Foster's prophetic eye saw as in a vision the beauty of this scene today, as it is given to some while still in this life, to catch glimpses of "the sweet fields of Eden" in the world of the hereafter.

I pass over the years of waiting, to the day forty years ago this morning when the college doors opened to receive its first installment of students. There were big, awkward country boys, two score or more of them, and a score or so of rosy-cheeked, shy girls from the farms and the little towns. How strange it all seemed. There were no "old students" to greet the newcomers. There were no traditions. There were no stories about students or faculty to be handed down with embellishments from upper classmen to lower classmen. Everybody was equally new, and inexperienced. And on the other side was the new faculty. There was the dignified and polished President Welch, a veteran teacher elsewhere, but new to Iowa, and to the particular education represented by this college. There was Professor Jones of somewhat severe mien, and with every evidence of being a vigorous, driving personality. And there was the bland Dr. Foote who was to lay plans for a department of chemistry, the energetic Dr. Townsend, and the lovable Miss Beaumont. It was a faculty small in numbers but remarkable in ability. These were the pioneers who headed the long line of teachers that have followed in the path broken by them here on the open prairie.

And so the work began. A new faculty gave instruction to a new student body. There were only the most meager facilities for instruction. There were blackboards, some benches, some chairs. There was a museum, small in size, but large in the number of dreadful specimens which it contained. With what feeling of horror must those innocent youths first have looked upon the numberless bottles of preserved snakes, the boxes of bats, impaled beetles and tarantulas, and the fierce-looking panthers and wild cats. It must have been an education in itself for those unsophisticated boys and girls to have spent an hour in this chamber of horrors, learning the lesson that "art is sometimes greater than nature."

In this young college there were no laboratories, no shops, and only a small library. It was a day of small things. The faculty lived in the building, with the students, the classrooms, the kitchen and the dining-room. With the exception of the farm superintendent and the live stock, the whole college was housed in one building. It was economical surely, and it saved time for students and faculty. No one lost time in going to or returning from his classes.

But this idyllic life was not destined to last long. The cold northwest winds swept down upon the college and its band of teachers and pupils so snugly ensconced in the big building. There were no trees to check the force of those chilly blasts, and in spite of the efforts of the old fireman the few little furnaces down in the cellar could not and would not keep the cold from creeping in. And right here was the beginning of the winter vacation so long a custom in the college. Finding that it was impossible to keep warm during the winter the college work was suspended until spring, and everybody went home. And this was repeated again and again until it became a deep-rooted habit which it took many years of agitation and discussion to remove.

Sixteen months from this opening day which we are now celebrating I first saw these grounds. It was a raw February day on which I reached the quite forlorn looking village of Ames. It impressed me with its treelessness and small houses with no shrubs and no dooryards, as a village which was all out of doors, and lonesome and unprotected. The drive over



the rough, mud road, over a rickety bridge and the "bottoms" of Squaw Creek, was not reassuring. The mean approach to the college just at the base of the hill, and up through the barnyard, by the old Farm House, and then across the fields to the president's house might well have dampened the ardor of the newcomer. But he was young and inexperienced, and withal was an optimist, and he had faith and went forward. What a blessed thing is the faith and optimism of youth! It is the faith that removes mountains. It is the optimist that always sees the golden margin of the cloud, no matter how dark and threatening the cloud itself may be.

Look back with me nearly thirty-nine years and see this campus as the young botanist saw it. There were no drives, no walks, no paths, no smooth lawn, and only a few small trees. There was the large building—"The College" we called it, the Farm House, a barn, some sheds, the president's house, and Professor Jones' house, these houses being away off on the prairie, seemingly a long distance from the center of activity. Probably the present generation has forgotten the story of these first houses for the faculty—how the early trustees, being of an experimental turn of mind determined to build them of "concrete" and actually had the president's house nearly completed, when one fair day it crushed down carrying with it the astonished carpenters at work on the roof. Fortunately no lives were lost, and the trustees gave up their advocacy of the concrete of that time for the building of houses. The remains of the walls of the two houses were gathered up and used for the foundation of the drive that for so many years ran from College Hall southeast towards the present entrance. If you are inclined to search for relics, go and dig into the foundation of this old driveway and you will find fragments of the concrete walls that fell nearly forty years ago.

The young botanist was fortunate in being taken into the president's home until he became familiar with his surroundings, and the friendship and acquaintance then formed brought him close to the president and his family. Because he found the young botanist willing to work, the president

early brought him into his office and taught him many things in an executive way that have been no small part of his preparation for larger things when they came to him repeatedly later in his life. For the same reason the president soon put into the hands of the young botanist the planting of the trees on the campus and the laying out of the new drives and walks. And today as he looks out upon this beautiful campus he is thankful that he was given this task in the early days of his work in the college, and he remembers President Welch with gratitude for laying upon him this great task.

For many years the college garden covered ten to twelve acres north of the site of this chapel building. That had its beginning in this first year of the young botanist's career. The year before it had been a canefield, and the labor of fitting it for a garden was something appalling. With much zeal and in spite of the open ridicule bestowed on him by the superintendent of the farm, the young botanist covered the ground with barnyard manure before plowing. The highest agricultural authority in Iowa at that time declared that the application of such a fertilizer to the soil was worse than useless, and he laughed to scorn the foolish young botanist who bought all of the great accumulations in the barnyard and had them carted to his new garden. It was not many months before a new superintendent came, who knew the value of this fertilizer, and thenceforward the college garden could purchase no more of the barnyard accumulations.

That was the day of the old-time "labor system." The law establishing the college required every student to work "not less than three hours a day in the summer and two in the winter," and so it was averaged, and every one was compelled to work two hours and a half a day. The students were assorted into squads of convenient size, and over each was a "squad-master" who collected his men, took them to their work, kept them at it, and returned them and their tools at the end of the work period. For many of the young men it was slavery, for it certainly was "involuntary servitude." They were paid ten cents per hour if they worked faithfully and broke no tools. The makeshifts, the excuses, the eva-

sions, that were resorted to in order to avoid this daily labor, if written, would fill a large volume.

At what did they work? The girls worked in the kitchen and dining-room, while the boys mopped the floors, hoed weeds in the garden, milked the cows, worked in the barns at odd jobs, worked in the fields, cut down trees in the fringe of forest northwest of the college, dug ditches, helped cart away the piles of dirt excavated from the cellars of the wings of the college building. Yes, everybody worked in those first years, and the practice was given up only when there were so many students and so little work that there was not enough to go around. You can maintain a manual labor system only when there is much rather simple labor to be performed, and not a great many persons to do it. Then too that was before the incoming of the laboratory and the shop as parts of a college equipment. In these nowadays the student works, and with far greater effectiveness educationally. It is far better for a boy to spend his afternoons in the soils laboratory, the dairy laboratory, the botanical or the horticultural laboratory, than for him to dig ditches, chop wood, hoe weeds, or milk the cows.

Unlike many of the agricultural colleges of that day this college from the first recognized the two great lines of work indicated in the Morrill law, namely Agriculture and the Mechanic Arts. Under the direction of President Welch two courses of study were laid out and made available from the beginning, and to this fact the college owes its remarkable symmetrical development. In nearly every other separate agricultural college in the country there was at first a one-sided development, only the agricultural studies and appliances being provided, to the more or less complete exclusion of those leading to the Mechanic Arts. Herein this college has had a great advantage over its less fortunate sisters. From the first it gave equal weight to both industrial lines, and thus early won for itself that pre-eminent place which it has maintained to this day. For I hold it to be undisputed that the Iowa State College has more exactly filled out the requirements and privileges of the Morrill law than any other of the institutions similarly founded upon it. And for this all credit

is due to the scholar who could see far into the future, who could see that here must be built a real college on a foundation as broad as its charter. Then as now there were those who clamored for a cheap "quick meal" type of school, which might appeal to the ignorant and the uninformed, and for whose support class prejudice might be arrayed. But against such educational heresies President Welch stood firm, and throughout his long administration he held consistently to the higher ideals which he had inaugurated with so much success. There were times when with an adverse faculty, or board of trustees, or in the face of an adverse sentiment in the State, he seemed to yield, but it was merely the bending of the oak to the storm, which after it swept by straightened again to its former uprightness and symmetry. The people of Iowa may never fully realize how much they owe to the great man who was the first president of its State College. I am sure that during his life the State never estimated him at his true worth. He stood so far in advance of the ordinary president of State colleges and in fact he stood so far above the presidents of colleges and universities of any kind at that day, intellectually and practically, that he could not be appreciated at his true worth by the very men who should have honored him as a great leader. Jealousy, rivalry, religious fanaticism all levelled their shafts against him. But firm in the conviction that his plans and ideals were right he held on his way steadfastly.

It was characteristic of the president that while he grappled with some things and compelled them to yield to his strong will, there were others that he allowed to take their own way, and to effect their own solution. A notable instance was his treatment of the question of the admission of young women to the college. No special provision had been made for them, in fact they were not referred to in the law, but when they came they were assigned to rooms and to such classes as they were able to enter. There was at first no course of study for young women, the only courses being the Agricultural course and the Mechanical course, and in these the young women were registered. Some men would have kept them out of these quite unfeminine lines of study; others



would have catered to the evident intent of the people of the State to send their daughters to the college. But President Welch simply waited, and watched for developments. So the first girls in the college went into the same classes as the boys. And this not discouraging their sisters from coming to college in increasing numbers and claiming a permanent place in it, he helped the faculty to devise a course in General Science for women. In it were such culture studies as history, literature and language, and that the young women of the State appreciated the value of the boon thus granted them is attested by their rapid increase in numbers. He spread no attractive intellectual feast beforehand to tempt the young women of the State to enter the college and swell the numbers in its first classes; he chose rather to wait and see whether they really wanted to enter the college. How sharply this contrasts with what I frequently see in college management where the attempt is made to create a demand by means of optimistically written circulars, lavishly illustrated by beautiful half-tone reproductions of photographs. This latter method of decoying young people to come to college may be justifiable from a business standpoint, but it certainly is lacking in good taste, and partakes quite too much of the style of the private normal schools, the business colleges, and the correspondence schools, all of which educational heresies were an abomination not to be tolerated by this scholarly president of the Iowa State College.

In the early days this college like all others was afflicted by certain infantile disorders. It is really quite amusing to watch these attacks, and to note how exactly they are reproduced in different colleges. And the amusing part of the case is the firm belief of each college that this particular attack is the first and only instance of its kind in the educational world. Very early in its history the college experienced a severe attack of the "student government" disorder. While it lasted, in theory the students governed themselves, making and enforcing their own rules, and meting out punishment to all who disobeyed them. I say "in theory," for to one who was on the inside of affairs as "officer of the week" for year after year,

this self-government was little more than theory, even in its most flourishing period. Had I the time and were this the place I could imitate Gibbon in his larger theme, and write the tragic history of "The Decline and Fall" of student government. Such a history would include the humiliating story of incompetent and weak student officials, the consequent disorders in the rooms and hallways, the incoming of the powerful forces of the faculty, the gradual increase of faculty control, and the final extinction of the last vestige of student government. Some old-time student of the early classes must write this tragic story, that it may be added to the long list of governments that have risen, flourished for a brief period, and then passed off the stage forever.

Who were the men who made up the faculty in those days when the foundations were being laid? At the head of the list stands the well-dressed, perfect gentleman, the cultured president, one of the most attractive men that I have ever met, and yet a rigid disciplinarian for both faculty and students. A man of medium height, of erect bearing, of a quick, alert eye, and in his later years with his massive head crowned with a dense covering of white hair—such was President Welch.

Next in intellectual strength stood Professor Jones of the chair of Mathematics, a man above the average height, erect in bearing, of swarthy skin, and straight black hair, which gave rise to the story often whispered from student to student that he had a drop of Indian blood in his veins. A fine teacher and much liked by his students in spite of his severity in the classroom, unfortunately he fell under the displeasure of the president, and a feud arose which resulted in his early retirement, greatly to the loss of the college as a whole and the students individually.

Professor Foote, a thin-chested, tall and somewhat stooping man, was the first chemist. He was excellently trained in his subject, and planned large things for his department, and yet the students of that day did not appreciate his scientific abilities, and gave more heed to an unfortunate temper which made him and them much trouble. His early retirement was I think a distinct loss to science in Iowa. It would have been far bet-

ter to have borne with his peculiarities, and to have retained for the State his splendid scientific personality.

The venerable Doctor Townsend, who occupied the chair of Agriculture before there were any students ready to pursue the subject was another of the strong men who helped to shape the early course of the college. A profound scholar in other lines, he was one of the best informed men of that day in the subject of agriculture. The college could scarcely hope to retain him on its faculty when his own State called loudly for him. Yet Iowa owes much to him for coming to its aid when it was maturing its plans for this college.

No account of the college would be complete that did not give large place to James L. Geddes, for many years the successful Professor of Military Tactics. A Scotchman by birth, he served in the English army in India, where he saw severe service. Then during the Civil War in this country he was long in active service, and was finally promoted to the rank of Brevet Brigadier General. All things considered he was one of the most interesting men I have ever met. A martinet in his profession, he could unbend, and when he did fortunate indeed were those who happened to be near him. His life had been most picturesque in its varied adventures in India, and in the Federal Army during the Civil War. A prisoner in Libby Prison, he took part in the repeated attempts to escape, only to be recaptured after short periods of freedom. It was my good fortune to share his confidence to a marked degree, and many an hour have I passed on the porch of the old college building listening to his tales of adventure and hairbreadth escape. After many years of faithful service the old man died in the harness, honored by faculty and students. There are many of us of the early years who have kept green the memory of the old general, and miss his presence when we return to the campus.

For four of the early years the college called from his home in southern Iowa the venerable James Mathews, a successful grower of fruits of many kinds, and made him Professor of Pomology. It was a novel experiment to attempt to make a professor out of such material, but the good sense

of the old man enabled him to adjust himself to his new surroundings, while at the same time he helped the faculty to see things from the outsider's point of view. He planted an orchard, and many small fruits, and he it was who planted the beautiful "Mathews Thorn" on the campus, a little to the south of the new Central Building. I remember when he walked onto the campus with the tree over his shoulder. He had found it in the forest west of the college, and noting its peculiar shape decided to add it to the trees on the campus. And this is his living monument. Long may it live to commemorate the name of the gentle soul who transplanted it and cared for it many years ago.

A little later the college called another successful "layman" Isaac P. Roberts, to its service as Professor of Agriculture. It was a bold and a startling thing to bring to a professor's chair a man who was known only in one small corner of the State, as a successful farmer. And yet President Welch dared to do it, and by so doing gave to the world one of the greatest professors of Agriculture that this country has produced. When Mr. Roberts came to the college he was appalled at his ignorance in regard to the subjects that make up a college course of study, but he set himself at work to learn something of chemistry, botany, entomology, physics, geology, and other things with which every college man is familiar, and in a few years he had not only demonstrated that he knew how to farm, and could tell the college boys how to do so, but in addition he now knew much about the related sciences and their applications, and had acquired the air of the cultured man who has dwelt in the college atmosphere. And when the shrewd president of Cornell University looked over the country for a man fit to take the chair of Agriculture in that great institution he selected our Professor Roberts, and took him from us.

Professor Anthony, a little, active, somewhat taciturn man, laid the foundations for a great department of Physics. He made large plans and looked far into the future. I shall not soon forget how astonished the trustees were when he coolly told them that for the equipment of his department he should have twenty-five thousand dollars. Today that does not seem



half as large as it did then. We are so used to the demands for large sums for equipment that now the professor's request appears to have been quite moderate. He bought much valuable apparatus, built the first mechanical shop, and set with his own hands the first Corliss engine the college owned. He too was taken from us by the discerning president of Cornell University, after several years of brilliant service.

And the lovable Professor Wynn, of mild voice and gracious manner, whom many of you remember, what pen can do justice to his personality? He brought into the college the first distinctly literary flavor, and taught us to look at the world through the glamour of the poet's eyes. Full of enthusiasm, loving his work and with an all embracing regard for his pupils, he soon won for himself a place such as I have rarely seen occupied by any other teacher. He was an ideal college professor. He was far more than a teacher in the narrow sense. He taught them literature, and language and history, but he did far more than this. He led them to see life in a new way. He showed them "a more excellent way" than living for self, or for the accumulation of material property. In his presence the young people of his day felt uplifted above the sordid things of earth. For a period in their college life they dwelt with the great minds of the past, with those whose thoughts were of higher things, with the philosophers and the poets of the world of letters. And who can measure the value of such a man to the young college, with its students gathered from the sparsely settled prairies and the isolation and loneliness of the pioneer farms. His life among us was a constant benediction. No wonder that his pupils loved him. No wonder that when they were in sore trouble they turned to him for counsel and comfort. No wonder that when they prepared to establish homes of their own they asked their beloved professor to place the seal of his approval and blessing upon them in the most solemn of all human contracts. No wonder that when death entered their homes he must come to give words of comfort as the loved ones were laid to rest in the eternal quiet of the grave. Even so, when the gray head of the great president, pressed down

and bowed with years of service, dropped in death, it was the beloved professor who came to lay him away under the shadows of the oaks in the college cemetery.

A few years ago it was my privilege to spend a blessed day with Professor Wynn in his Tacoma home on the Pacific coast. White-haired, and with a flowing white beard, he reminded me of the portraits of the prophets of old, but I soon found him to be the same youthful-minded, enthusiastic, genial and sympathetic man who for years was my most valued companion. In the afternoon of a useful life he now calmly awaits the setting of the sun, filled with pleasant memories of the past, the golden period of which he spent here on this campus, and in the companionship of his pupils in the early years when the college was still young.

Of the young botanist who came as a very raw graduate to be instructor in Botany and Horticulture I need say little more than this—that he was soon requested to add human physiology to the subjects he was expected to teach—that when the second semester drew near the president informed him that he would have to take the class in zoology (including entomology)—that somewhat later he was told in the same bland, persuasive manner that the class in comparative anatomy was waiting for his instruction. So the young botanist soon found himself occupying an elongated “settee” instead of a chair. And in those early years he was also the Secretary of the Faculty, no sinecure at that period when the faculty met regularly once a week, and when business was pressing every day. He will never forget how gratified he was when at the first meeting of the faculty after his arrival he was by unanimous vote given the honor of the secretaryship. He thought it remarkable that they should have so early discerned his fitness for this honorable position, and was duly elated. He learned, alas, before many weeks that instead of an honor, it was a piece of drudgery that the older members had adroitly put upon the youngest and least experienced of their number. It was a sad disillusionment. And yet it did the young botanist a world of good, for it taught him more about college management than he could have learned in any other way. And here let me suggest to you young men

in the present faculty of the college, and you students who hope some day to be members of faculties, that you do not avoid such tasks as this. If you are asked to take up drudgery of the kind connected with the secretaryship of a faculty, accept it as an opportunity by which you may learn how colleges and universities are managed. Likewise do not shirk work on standing or special committees. They all teach you something about the management and direction of men, whether in the faculty or the student body. For I hold it to be true that every teacher is a better and more useful member of his faculty if he has a pretty clear idea of the way colleges are controlled, from the trustees to the president, and down through the faculty as a legislative body, to the heads of the different departments, and the subordinates in the departments, and the relations of all of these to the students individually and collectively. Were all these relations more clearly understood there would be much less friction between the various officers and governing bodies, and there would not be the periodic eruptions which sometimes shake the college to its very foundations.

But in my roll call of those who had to do with the beginnings in the college, I must not overlook the students of those early days. It has often been said that the first class was remarkable for the many strong men and women it contained. This has been accounted for by the fact that these students had been waiting for the opening of the college, and that only the more determined had persisted.

There was the dainty Arthur who disliked to soil his hands, now one of the best known botanists in the United States—the sturdy Cessna, now our Professor Cessna—the two Devin boys who remained for a couple of years and then went to Cornell University—Dietz, now a prosperous and honored citizen of my own State of Nebraska—Foster, for many years a college professor, and college president—Harvey, brilliant, industrious, somewhat odd, well known for many years as an eminent botanist in the south, and later in New England—the slender Hungerford, who made a local name for himself and then lay down in early death—the brilliant and now much traveled Mattie Locke, and her husband Macomber (“J. K.”)

long a professor in the college, and since then a prosperous lawyer—Noyes, the genial maker of dictionary holders and windmills (which same inventions have brought him a generous fortune)—big Smith, the engineer and architect—little Smith, the successful physician—Stanton, the genial professor in the college for these many years—Stevens, long and widely known as Judge Stevens—the brilliant Tom Thompson, whose early death cut off what promised to be a most useful career—and Suksdorf and Tillotson and Wellman and Wells, all good men, and strong men.

And so as I run down the roll of the next class I see again—Beard and Green, Hagerty and Hawkins, Kent and Maben and Porterfield, Robinson and the inimitable Stalker, Swigart and Wattles and Williams.

Somewhat more faintly do I call up the faces of some in the class a year still later. Yet I see in the half shadow, Appleman, Baldwin, Boardman, the other Beard, the tall Buchanan, familiarly known as "Bob," the Clingan boys, Jackson (Governor Jackson they call him now), little Kiesel, full of mischief and an uncontrollable good nature, Lee, McCarger, Parsons, Randleman, and Whitaker.

And thus their faces come to me today, shadowy, fleeting glimpses of those who sat before me in the class room in the days when the college was still so young that every student left his impress upon it, as he left a pleasing picture upon my memory. Yes, these early students were builders of the college, and each contributed his mite to its foundation.

And now as we look back to those early days, and bring our vision slowly down to the present, we may answer the question as to what it is in particular for which this college stands. Such a backward glance over the forty years of its active existence shows that it has not been simply one more college added to the educational facilities of this State. It has stood for something different, so different that during the first years of its existence the educators of the State did not know how or where to class it. It began as a protest against the narrowness of the old education, which looked askance at the sciences when they demanded admission to the college curriculum. That such a protest was necessary the older



men remember, for in those days when the sciences were admitted at all they were usually given a distinctly inferior place. It was not at all uncommon to find much lower conditions of admission to the scientific courses than to the classical, and for a time the courses were but three years in length. The graduates from the scientific courses were properly looked upon as not standing on the level of the classical graduates. All this was admirably calculated to discredit the scientific studies, and to keep from their pursuit the strong men in the colleges.

This college from the first insisted upon the introduction of the sciences into the curriculum. They were to be given full opportunity to show their value as factors in a collegiate education. The old studies were boldly left out or given but secondary place in order that the experiment as to the educative value of the sciences might be fairly and fully tried. And it succeeded splendidly, in spite of the evident one-sidedness of the experiment. I wonder now at the boldness of the men of that day. Certainly it required courage to proclaim to the world a belief in the educative value of the sciences even in the absence of the traditional culture studies.

And still more, the new college insisted on "practice with science," which being interpreted is what we know nowadays as the "laboratory method" in science. From the first this thought was dominant and it found early expression in all of the sciences. It is a well known fact that here in this new college was established the first botanical laboratory west of old Harvard University. And here too there was laboratory work in zoology when in the ordinary colleges in all of the middle west the students were simply conning text-books or not studying the subject at all.

With this emphasis upon the sciences the college early placed increasing emphasis upon the applications of the sciences. Botany was extended into horticulture and certain phases of agriculture; chemistry was made to include the study of soils and the composition of forage, and other animal foods; physics was carried out into the fields of electrical and mechanical science; and zoology was broadened into the compar-

ative anatomy and physiology of domestic animals, and the scientific and economic aspects of entomology.

As a result of this attitude of this college, and other colleges like it, the sciences have been permitted to enter into all of the old-time colleges. And now the sciences are no longer given a mean place. They stand as equal to the time-honored studies, and the student who attains the degree in science is given equal honor with him who gains it in arts. The laboratory method of teaching science has been accepted in all colleges, and it has been adopted by some of the more progressive teachers of the purely literary subjects.

It is not an uncommon thing for one to hear nowadays that history and literature, and economics and philosophy are taught "by the laboratory method." So we may claim to have contributed in no small way to the liberalizing and rejuvenation of the old-time curriculum and method of instruction.

What now of the future of the college? What should be its further development? As we look over the four decades of its history and note the necessary changes that it has undergone, it is possible now to suggest the most profitable lines of progress. For no institution however fortunate and successful in its past can stand still. It must go on, it must develop, it must seek out new lines along which it may grow into still greater usefulness to the community. That college which lives on its past successes is of little value to the present. It must justify itself anew perennially by what it is now—what it is doing today.

In its past history the college helped to broaden the curriculum of every other college, and thus made a most important contribution to the cause of higher education in this country. Having accomplished this so successfully, it should now give greater breadth to its own curriculum. As the old colleges learned from the new, so the new colleges must not fail to learn from the old. We taught the old colleges the value of the sciences in higher education, and as a result they have added the sciences to their courses of study. Let us not forget that in our zeal for the introduction of the sciences we gave scant attention to the old studies. It is time now that we

should begin to liberalize our curriculum by the introduction of some of the old culture studies. For it is not true that without them we can do better, or even as well. Though they may not add to a man's earning capacity, they make him a more agreeable man to his fellows, and what is more, to himself, also. Every man should have some intellectual possession that can not be bought, that is above and beyond price. Let us add some of these things to the preparation we give to the man who is to live in the open with his crops and his stock and his family. Let us if possible kindle in him a spark of poetic fancy, that this may make the long days less wearisome, and the loneliness of his isolated life more endurable. Let us add to his knowledge of what the world has been in the generations that have long gone by. Let us give him something from the rich store of philosophy, that he may think of these things when the hours of drudgery weigh heavily upon him.

And here I note with hearty approval that the movement for the introduction of culture studies has made headway in the agricultural courses in some of the colleges and universities of the country. I note with especial pleasure that in your last catalogue you particularly name literature, mathematics and history as necessary studies in the agricultural courses, and that in the recommended electives are such culture studies as economics, history, French, German, Spanish, literature and psychology. When you state your aim to be "to develop the agricultural students to the level of the educated in any profession," you place yourselves in the ranks of those for whom education means more than the mere training of men to do more work or earn more money. You are training them to be fit to live as individuals, and as members of the community.

A significant movement began some time ago among the engineers, who have accordingly made stronger and stronger demands for a broader training for the engineering graduate. This finds expression in your last catalogue in these admirable words: "A college course in engineering should be in the first place a training of the mind of the student toward ability to think logically, to observe accurately, and by the applica-

tion of the former acquirement to the latter to reach correct inferences." Never were truer words spoken. The first thing for the student is not to learn the art of engineering, but rather to train his mind, and after that to acquire the technical information of his profession. Gentlemen of the Engineering faculty, you are to be congratulated upon taking this advanced position. Elsewhere, I have observed that the same thing has been reached by a six-year course in engineering in which at least two years of culture studies have been added to the usual engineering studies, with an arrangement that on the completion of these liberal studies at the end of the fourth or fifth year the student may be awarded the degree of Bachelor of Arts. Such a six-year course, for this purpose has been announced by the Engineering faculty of the University of Nebraska during the present year.

Now all of these movements indicate that I can safely urge you to study to make the college still more useful to the men and women who come here for an education. The college has greatly improved the quantity and quality of the corn crop in Iowa; it should also improve the corn grower himself; it has improved the quality of the cattle in the State; let it not overlook the quality of the cattle growers. In your commendable zeal to make better engines, and pumps, and bridges, do not neglect the betterment of the engine maker, the pump manufacturer, and the bridge builder. Let us look after the man a little more, not neglecting his product in so doing, but remembering him always.

And now as I close this rapid and somewhat cursory sketch, let me first of all congratulate you upon reaching this fortieth anniversary. I congratulate you upon the splendid success you have achieved—your twenty-four hundred students—your fine campus—your magnificent buildings—your admirable faculty. But more than all I congratulate you upon your honorable history, and that in the early years you had here the great men who laid firmly and wisely the foundations upon which you have so well built this great institution.



## IOWA AND THE FIRST NOMINATION OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

BY F. I. HERRIOTT,

*Professor of Economics, Political and Social Science,  
Drake University.*

THE PRELIMINARIES OF 1859.

The mutinous disturbances in the ranks of the Democratic party incident to and following the Lincoln-Douglas debates naturally increased public interest in the presidential succession. There was exhibited in the country at large, alike in the Democratic and Republican papers, signs of a growing feeling that the dissensions within the "Administration" reflected irreconcilable differences respecting Slavery—differences so serious that they would inevitably drive either the northern or the southern wing of the Democratic party into irretrievable insurrection or opposition. Coincident with this disintegration of the party in power there were obvious drifts indicating a concentration and coalescence of the sundry groups of the Opposition. Abolitionists and Americans, German-Americans and Whigs, contradictory and divergent though their antecedents, affiliations and purposes were, saw or were beginning to feel, that the aggressions and arrogance of the Slavocrats within and without Congress made Slavery—its extension or extinction—the paramount fact in public debate. They were becoming conscious of the fact that the principles of the Republican party afforded them a fairly satisfactory common ground for concentration and concert in opposition.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>The headings of editorials in the press of Iowa and the titles of articles reprinted from eastern and southern papers during the last quarter of 1858 and the first half of 1859 afford ample and interesting evidence justifying the assertions above. The columns of *The Daily Hawk-Eye* of Burlington suffice for illustration:

The dissensions in the Democratic party are dwelt upon in an extended article reprinted Nov. 5, 1858, from the *Cincinnati Gazette*, entitled "Democracy going to Pieces—South Indignant at their Northern Allies and Repudiating their Fellowship"; Nov. 18, by two and a quarter columns devoted to a reprint of portions of a speech by Senator Hammond of South Carolina; Nov. 27, in an article—"The Northern Democracy—Where is it and What will it be?" taken from the *Cincinnati Gazette* and in a long extract from the speech of Jefferson Davis at Jackson, Mississippi; Dec. 20, in a reprint from the *Gazette* on "Senator Douglas and his Political Patchwork"; Dec. 31, in a bitter extract from *The Mississippian*

### 1. *Important Conditions Determining Expressions.*

The signs in Iowa in 1859 of interest in the Presidential succession and particularly the selection of the Republican candidate while definite were not numerous. Readers of the compact and rapid narratives of the biographers of Chase, Lincoln and Seward, and of our national historians that relate the chief developments of the pre-convention campaign among the Republicans will suffer some surprise at the dearth of expression. Editors made note of the subject infrequently. There is but little evidence of either individual or local preferences as regards candidates. Expressions relative to the principles and policies were more explicit and insistent; but there was no hue and cry. Two important facts must be appreciated in order to realize the significance of the meagre evidence of public interest in Iowa in the Republican preliminaries of 1860.

First, newspapers were not numerous on this side of the Mississippi. Their publication was not only an expensive and laborious business, but their maintenance was dependent, in no small measure, upon the favor of the public authorities, the compensation for publishing the "Delinquent Tax List"

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of Jackson, Miss., anent Douglas' visit to the South; Jan. 10, 1859, in Correspondence, entitled "Virginia Politics and Republican Proclivities" taken from the *N. Y. Times*; Jan. 20, in a reprint of Correspondence of the *N. Y. Post*, entitled "What is Douglas going to Do?" anent the differences with his colleagues in the Senate; March 1, in a dispatch headed "New Political Division," etc., commenting on a recent speech of Douglas at Washington; and March 2, in an editorial with the title "A House Divided Against Itself," that begins—"There is not a single question of importance upon which the Democratic party is united—Not one. It is divided upon the tariff, the government of the territories, and at loggerheads on the nigger question generally. . . . The Democratic party is now, totally 'demoralized,' to use the language of the *N. Y. Herald*. . . . The radiation from Lincoln's speech at Springfield in June is here very apparent.

The movements indicating coalescence of the opposition, the advantages thereof, and the necessity therefor are likewise noted and discoursed upon from time to time; Nov. 11, 1858, the editorials of the *N. Y. Tribune* and the Springfield (Mass.) *Republican* commenting upon the "Triumph of Mr. Douglas" in Illinois were reprinted at length; Nov. 22, Greeley's plan for "uniting the opposition" by doing away with conventions is given; May 12, an editorial entitled "Union of the Opposition" cites from the *N. Y. Commercial Advertiser*; May 23, Greeley's "Appeal to Conservatives," is reprinted; and June 8, portions of Greeley's speech "On the Presidential Prospects" at Ossawatimie, Kan. (May 18), containing his advice to work for a coalition is reproduced. During the remainder of the year most of the leading editorials of *The Tribune* urging a union of the opposition are reproduced in the columns of *The Hawk-Eye*—usually, however, without comment.

The writer is under extraordinary obligations to the courtesy and consideration of Mr. W. W. Baldwin, and of Mr. J. L. Waite, editor of *The Hawk-Eye* for the foregoing and subsequent citations from the same journal.

being their major source of income. Typesetting was done by hand. Mergenthalers and linotype machines, pennydreadfuls and "Extras" daily were inconceivable. There were but four telegraph stations in the State<sup>1</sup> and only five cities (Dubuque, Davenport, Muscatine, Burlington and Keokuk) could boast of daily papers published continuously throughout the year.<sup>2</sup> Editors, consequently, discussed men and measures under a stress of multifarious duties. They had to gather news, solicit advertisements and subscriptions, beseech and enforce collections, often do "the devil's work," while they were playing and watching the game of politics. If under such circumstances expressions of serious and well-ordered opinions by editors were infrequent, if the manifestations of interest in the issues of the approaching Presidential struggle were meagre and more or less indefinite the fact by no means signifies an absence of alert, intelligent interest among editors and their patrons.

The second basic fact to be reckoned with was the circulation of *The New York Tribune* in Iowa. That paper was by far the greatest purveyor of news in the State. No local paper possessed anything like its range and force of influence. Its power was exerted mainly perhaps outside rather than within the cities. In many, if not in most rural communities the postmasters handled more *Weekly Tribunes* than all other foreign papers combined. The homes of regular subscribers were much patronized by neighbors not subscribers. Men of means frequently made gratuitous subscriptions as gifts to nearby friends or neighbors. To the tillers of the soil its columns headed "Important to the Farmers" contained nearly all the law and the prophets. Fields were plowed; corn, wheat and trees were planted; stock housed and fed and crops garnered according to the directions of "Uncle Horace." In the animated discussions at house and barn raisings, at threshings, and husking bees, at barbecues, singing and spelling schools, at "shoots" and rallies, his columns were constantly appealed to for facts and arguments as well as for news. Pioneers, in

<sup>1</sup>*N. Y. Tribune* (s. w.) Oct. 14, 1859: A Chicago dispatch giving the returns from the recent election in Iowa and explaining the delay thereof.

<sup>2</sup>The citizens of Des Moines enjoyed a Daily during the sessions of the General Assembly, viz.: once in two years.

their reminiscences of *ante bellum* days are not always quite certain whether Greeley's *Tribune* or the Bible had precedence in the family circle.<sup>1</sup> In the forepart of 1859 the reported number of subscribers in Iowa was stated to be 7,523<sup>2</sup> and a year later the number had increased to 11,000.<sup>3</sup> Its circle of readers at the later date doubtless embraced 100,000 persons from whom its influence constantly radiated. The actual circulation of local dailies or weeklies probably in no case exceeded a third of Greeley's weekly.<sup>4</sup>

In demonstrating the development of party opinion in Iowa respecting the best selection for the Republican party's candidate for the Presidency in 1860, it is necessary to indicate the antecedent attitude of the party spokesmen towards the principles that were to make up the party platform. The drift of sentiment as to the principles of administrative policy in the nature of the case largely decides the course of party leaders in the selection of the standard bearer. The candidate is to be the executive of the principles adopted. Consequently he must be a man representative of and in sympathy with those principles. Hence, in what succeeds, considerable attention will be given to the trend of discussion of the program for the Republican party in 1860.

In tracing the growth of opinion in the party press one frequently suffers from perplexity. It is not easy always to determine the significance of news items, editorial expressions and particularly of the reprint of articles from eastern and southern contemporaries. Editors, like most mortals, labor under personal and partizan bias. Local associations and prejudices arising in business, church, politics and social con-

<sup>1</sup>The writer's authority for the statements above consists chiefly of correspondence and interviews with pioneers—notably with Professor Jesse Macy of Iowa College at Grinnell and with the late George C. Duffield of Keosauqua.

<sup>2</sup>*N. Y. Tribune* (s. w.) April 26, 1859.

<sup>3</sup>*Iowa State Register* (Des Moines) April 18, 1860.

<sup>4</sup>Noting the circulation of the *N. Y. Tribune* in March, 1859, *The Hawk-Eye* observed: "There is no paper printed in the State of Iowa that has half the circulation of *The Tribune* within the State." (April 29, 1859.)

Mr. Will Porter, editor of the Democratic paper, *The Journal*, published at Des Moines between 1856 and 1860, informs the writer that in 1859 by extra efforts and special inducements he secured for his paper during the political campaign a circulation of approximately 4,000, which was the high watermark up to that time. That circulation was extraordinary, however, lasting only during the campaign. The circulation of his Republican rival, *The Citizen*, as he recalls, ranged from 1,500 to 2,000. Interview with Mr. Porter, Des Moines, Nov. 17, 1908.



nections, in the main, predispose and fix opinions and control actions. Items are "run" and articles are reprinted usually as matters of news simply as indices to the direction of currents of popular interest. Sometimes, however, they are inserted and "headed" with set purpose and design to influence public opinion *pro* or *con*, as regards approaching party decisions on matters of policy or procedure. Moreover, editors frequently express opinions in their editorial columns that indicate what they would prefer to have and hope to see realized, rather than what they as a matter of fact really expect will come to pass. In the narrative which follows the editors cited for the most part express their views in their own words.

## 2. *First Expressions Respecting Party Principles and Candidates.*

The first expression in the press of Iowa in 1859 respecting the campaign in 1860 was elicited by one of the suggestions of the *New York Tribune*. In the second week of December<sup>1</sup> Greeley had proposed that the Republicans should nominate a candidate for Vice-President and the non-Republican opposition should nominate the head of the ticket—the only condition being that the nominee should definitely favor the restriction of slavery to the States then occupied. The *Louisville Journal* demurred and submitted a counter proposal—both wings of the opposition should assemble in Washington in separate conventions in the summer of 1860, the non-Republican opposition to engage to present a candidate for the Presidency on whom all could unite and the Republicans to do the same with respect to the second place—one whom all could "support with zeal and propriety." In outlining these proposals to his readers Mr. Hildreth observed (January 13): "It is plain that the time has not yet come for the different wings of the opposition to 'compare notes' with a view to selecting a Presidential candidate. But ingenious men will exercise their talents in this line and their efforts may be of some use in affording glimpses of the state of public senti-

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<sup>1</sup>*N. Y. Tribune* (s. w.), Dec. 10, 1858.

ment." Concluding he makes the interesting assertion: "It has been assumed that the extreme abolition sentiment would bring into nomination Senator Seward for President and F. P. Stanton, the Kansas ex-Secretary and ex-Acting Governor, for Vice-President; but the declaration of Mr. Stanton, that Mr. Seward's extraordinary platform [Rochester speech] can find no endorsement from the people, condemns that theory."<sup>1</sup> At that time Mr. Hildreth, "down east" Yankee though he was, did not look with favor upon the nomination of the author of the Rochester speech.

A week later under "Notes From Washington" Mr. Hildreth reprints portions of the correspondence of the Cincinnati *Enquirer* (an Administration paper), stating that "Senator Seward and Governor Chase are the most talked of as the candidates for the Presidency among the Republicans. But F. P. Blair, Sr., is ardent for Colonel Fremont, who, with Frank Blair of Missouri for the Vice-Presidency the correspondent is inclined to think will prevail in the convention."<sup>2</sup> And in his next issue he notes that "a quarrel is going on among the Republican members there (Washington); a portion desire to take up the Douglas popular sovereignty doctrine, abandoning direct opposition to slavers, and invite the Douglas men, and southern as well as northern Americans to join them. Eli Thayer, of Mass., is one of the prominent advocates of this plan."<sup>3</sup> Two weeks later he notes that a political club has been formed to promote the candidacy of John M. Botts of Virginia for the Opposition's choice for standard bearer in 1860.<sup>4</sup> About the same time the editors of *The Montezuma Weekly Republican* make note of the assertion of the *New York Times* that "a new Republican movement" was under way that "may command attention. It is to make Colonel Fremont again the candidate, putting upon the ticket some live southern or southwestern man, like Blair of Missouri, who has ability, political courage and the advantage of living in a Slave State."<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup>*St. Charles Intelligencer*, Jan. 13, 1859,—Editorial "Presidential Discussions."

<sup>2</sup>*Ib.* Jan. 20, 1859. <sup>3</sup>*Ib.* Jan. 27, 1859. <sup>4</sup>*Ib.* Feb. 10, 1859.

<sup>5</sup>*The Montezuma Weekly Republican*, Jan. 20, 1859.

The first extended, explicit and serious expression relative to the approaching Presidential contest came from Burlington from the pen of Mr. Clark Dunham, editor of *The Daily Hawk-Eye*. On March 5, discussing "The Issue of 1860," he observed that no intelligent man could "fail to see" that "a very important crisis" was approaching.

There is but one question at issue . . . and that is the Negro question. To this question there can be but two parties.

On one side we have the party of Slavery, headed by vigilant, active, determined and desperate leaders, whose voice has heretofore ruled Congress. . . . If they fail in this [the extension of Slavery] they will do their utmost to bring about a dissolution of the Union and erect the Slave States into a Southern Republic.

On the other side the Republican party holds that Slavery is a creature of law, freedom being the normal condition of all men—that the Dred Scott decision is in violation of the constitution, policy of our government and spirit of our institutions, extra-judicial and therefore not binding—that Slavery has no legal existence outside of Slave States. That neither the Congress of the United States nor the people of the territories, deriving their powers from Congress, can enact Slave laws for the territories . . .

This is the issue before the country, and it is such an issue, so clearly defined, that there can be no third party.

Three facts stand out in Mr. Dunham's editorial that are observable in much of the discussion of the period. First, Slavery was believed to be foremost in the public mind as to which there could be (deery the necessity as many did, never so much) but two opinions and but two courses to follow. It was the iron wedge on which all other matters split. Second, the terrible earnestness of the Slavocrats and their willingness to proceed to desperate measures to accomplish their program is clearly apprehended. Third, there appears an obvious but little appreciated contradiction in the attitude of the Republicans towards the question of Slavery—Slavery was declared to be a creature of law, but the application of the doctrine under the Dred Scott decision is pronounced extra-judicial and subversive of the constitution.

During March the King-makers became active and vocal. In the latter part of the month the Republican press of St. Louis announced Edward Bates as a candidate for the Presi-

dency, asking his nomination by the National Republican Convention. Formal measures were taken to place him before the public and to promote his candidacy. The majority of the papers in Iowa, if they recognized it at all, merely made note of the announcement as a matter of news without comment, or with a collateral quotation of some favorable opinion of those favoring his candidacy.<sup>1</sup> Mr. Dunham, however, expressed in blunt, brief fashion an objection to the announcement—but gave no hint as to his real attitude towards Mr. Bates. Commenting upon the effort of the *Evening News* of St. Louis at “president making” he bluntly declared: “This is premature. It is too early yet to discuss the merits of candidates. And the success of Mr. Bates and other aspirants depends a good deal on their being kept out of the fight for some time to come.”<sup>2</sup> Two days later he reprints the remarks of Dr. Bailey of the *National Era* commending Salmon P. Chase as a suitable standard bearer for the Republicans in 1860.<sup>3</sup> A month later Mr. Hildreth referring to the Bates letter said: “His prospects for a nomination for the Presidency by the Republicans are not inferior to those of any statesman named. If nominated, he would most assuredly be elected.”<sup>4</sup>

The most interesting editorial item discoverable in March was the following from Mr. Mahin’s columns: “The Chicago *Democrat* strongly urges the nomination of Abe Lincoln for the Vice-Presidency by the Republican party, and thinks the ticket had better be headed by some southern man. It says: ‘We think it would aid us materially in establishing a national position, if we could run some southern man for the Presidency with Mr. Lincoln for Vice-President.’ The *Rockford Republican* takes the same ground.”<sup>5</sup>

In March Mr. John Teesdale, editor of *The Weekly Citizen* published at the State capital, visited Ohio in which State he had been influential as an editor and as a politician for twenty

<sup>1</sup>See *The Gate City*, April 5, 1859. See also *The Davenport Weekly Gazette*, April 28, 1859; *The Keosauqua Weekly Republican*, April 9, 1859.

<sup>2</sup>*The Daily Hawk-Eye*, April 14, 1859.

<sup>3</sup>*Ib.* April 16, 1859.

<sup>4</sup>*St. Charles Intelligencer*, May 12, 1859.

<sup>5</sup>*The Muscatine Daily Journal*, March 29, 1859.



years (1837-1856), being between 1844-46 Private Secretary to Governor Bartley. While renewing old acquaintances, politics and the prospects of candidates for the Presidency were subjects of earnest inquiry. He sought to learn the drift and force of the currents there and Ohioans besought information as to the probable course of party preferences in Iowa. On his return to Des Moines he set forth (April 13) his views at some length under the caption, "Iowa and the Presidency." Mr. Teesdale at the time was State Printer and his paper was in a sense an official organ. At least his views were likely to differ but little from what he would regard as the prevalent opinion among the dominant men of his party as represented by the men holding official positions. His editorial is quoted at length.

Frequently during our absence from the State we were interrogated as to the Presidential preferences of Iowa. We uniformly answered that Iowa would be for the Republican nominee, beyond the shadow of a doubt; but we doubted whether any man could speak authoritatively, just now, as to her Presidential preferences. The press,—which usually affords unmistakable evidence of the setting of the public current—has thus far remained silent upon the question of the next Presidency. The silence is not the result of indifference, but of a purpose that pervades, as we believe, the Republican ranks of nearly every State, viz.: a purpose to sink all personal predilections in an effort to secure a candidate whose success will be beyond question. There is a deep and strong conviction that the next President will be a Republican. This conviction gains strength daily, with the increasing evidence of the disorganization and demoralization of the sham Democracy. Believing that there will be no difficulty in electing the Republican nominee, if he truly represents the Republican sentiment of the country, there is an all-pervading conviction that the nominee should be a man who is fully and fairly identified with the Republican organization; a man who has been tried; a man who has a national reputation, and who can be trusted in all possible contingencies, as an exponent of the friends of Freedom. If Iowa had the making of the President, she would, we believe, confer that honor upon William H. Seward, the peerless statesman, the incorruptible patriot. But, if in deference to the opinions and preferences of her sister States it becomes necessary to name another as the Republican standard bearer she will cheerfully support John McLean, Salmon P. Chase, Winfield Scott, John C. Fremont, John P. Hale, or any other among

the illustrious men who have attested their devotion to Republican principles. If a Pennsylvania candidate is needed, there is no man in whose behalf she would so cordially attest her devotion, as Galusha A. Grow. John Bell, and John J. Crittenden have a host of friends in Iowa, but before a union could be effected in behalf of either it would be necessary to know that they fully endorse the platform adopted by the last National Republican Convention.

When the proper time comes, Iowa will speak out, so that her personal preferences shall be understood; but her personal preferences will never be suffered to disturb the harmony of the Republican organization. She will be ready to fall into line for the nominee and give him her support with an earnestness that will not permit her to be regarded as debatable ground. At present there seems to be no urgent necessity for agitating the Presidential question. We have a State canvass on our hands which we mean to dispose of before devoting much space to the next Presidency. National questions will exert, as they should, a powerful influence in the coming State election. But Presidential preferences will have very little to do with the result.

There is much in the foregoing that anticipates subsequent discussion. First, like most politicians whose experience has been sufficient to teach prudence, Mr. Teesdale did not believe there was much benefit in crossing streams before coming to the bridges. Second, while he had decided personal preferences in respect of the candidate, he would not stand stoutly for his choice and none other regardless of contrary considerations affecting the party's success at the polls. Third, he was confident there was but little of the "rule or ruin" sentiment among the Republicans of the State with respect to the party's candidate. Fourth, an alliance with the non-Republican Opposition would be sanctioned if the coalition was arranged upon the basis of an explicit concurrence in and reaffirmation of the principles of the Philadelphia platform. Fifth, the doubtful States should determine the choice, if thereby victory would be rendered more probable.

Two days later (April 15) there came a vigorous pronouncement from Muscatine. Shortly before, the Opposition party in Tennessee had held a convention, adopted a State platform, and had put forward John Bell as a candidate for the Presidency in 1860, believing him to be one about whom all could rally in a common struggle to dislodge the Administra-

tion. Mr. Mahin viewed the platform as the draft of a protocol for a coalition, reprinted it entire and proceeded to subject its proposals to some sharp criticism under the caption "The Opposition in Tennessee—Can We Coalesce in 1860." It was a "sandwich platform" in his judgment and he gave it short shrift. The first resolution declaring the Union "the surest guaranty of the rights and interests of all sections" he branded as the "old clap-trap, dingy generality" which had become "familiar of late years as the heading of any special rascality which its author wished to cover up." The second proclaiming "our constitutional rights" as regards Slavery and thereupon insisting that the people in new territories "when they come to form a constitution and establish a State government shall decide the question of Slavery" he declared a palpable inconsistency, being merely "the Lecompton Slave Trading Democracy dressed up in Sunday clothes." The section advocating "a tariff adequate to the expenses of economical administration . . . with specific duties where applicable, discriminating in favor of American industries" he said pointedly "meant anything or nothing according to the section where read." The plank calling for a "reasonable extension of the period of probation now prescribed for the naturalization of foreigners and a more rigid enforcement of the law upon the subject" he asserted was alone "sufficient to ensure [the] prompt and contemptuous rejection [of the entire platform] by every Republican." Mr. Mahin concludes his editorial by announcing that the motto of the northern Republicans is—"No coalition and no compromises."<sup>1</sup> A week later in tendering "A Word of Advice" to Republicans relative to amalgamation with "less radical elements" he said "the Slavery question is now the only *real* issue between the two great parties of the country and it therefore behooves us to maintain a bold and decided stand upon it."<sup>2</sup>

Three facts are noteworthy in Mr. Mahin's expressions. First, the effect of Lincoln's Freeport questions that made juggling with "popular sovereignty" impossible, is realized. Second, he strikes at the proposed extension of the probation-

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<sup>1</sup>*The Muscatine Daily Journal*, April 15, 1859.

<sup>2</sup>*Ib.* April 21, 1859.

ary period in naturalization with vigor, voicing a protest that a few weeks later became almost universal throughout the northwest States when the Massachusetts Amendment set the Germans on fire. Third, the cardinal fact in discussion, the fact that could not be ignored or minimized, was Slavery.

The announcement of Mr. Bates as a candidate for the Republican nomination for the Presidency resulted forthwith in sundry efforts to draw from him by way of interviews, letters and speeches, expressions of his views on the issues in debate. Of several statements made by him the most serious was an extended letter to a committee of Whigs of New York City. His position upon the subject of Slavery was virtually *laissez faire, laissez passer*, let it alone and enforce the law and time will work the cure of the iniquities of the institution. His statement, although conceded to be "able and interesting," did not strike Mr. Howell of Keokuk favorably, a portion of his editorial comment being:

The nigger question he spends but few words upon. He would ignore it altogether, and get rid of it by leaving it alone. But Mr. Bates should have sense enough to see that it is so linked in with the rights of man at large, and the interest and ambitions of men in particular, that it has made *itself* conspicuous and cannot be got rid of by not looking at it or in any other way but some sort of a definite and satisfactory settlement. The spirit of Mr. Bates' letter is patriotic and sound but it does not show him to be such a plain-dealing and thorough-going statesman as the times demand. It is futile to mention his name again in connection with the Presidency.<sup>1</sup>

Mr. J. B. Dorr's reference to the announcement from St. Louis indicated clearly the attitude that the Democrats would maintain towards the candidacy of Mr. Bates. He merely noted: "Many of the Know-Nothing organs have already hoisted his name at the head of their columns and some of the Republican papers have done the same."<sup>2</sup>

The attitude of many, if not a majority, of experienced editors and party leaders towards political candidacies is exhibited in clear fashion in the editorial expressions of two influential editors in central eastern Iowa in the latter days

<sup>1</sup>*The Gate City*, April 21, 1859.

<sup>2</sup>*The Express and Herald* (Dubuque), April 23, 1859.



of April respecting two prominent Ohioans, Salmon P. Chase and Benjamin F. Wade. Personal preferences and party plans and success may coincide; but in case they do not, the exigencies of a political contest must needs prevail over the personal inclination of the admirers and friends of this or that aspirant or candidate. Mr. Add. H. Sanders, editor of *The Davenport Gazette*, on April 28, declared himself as follows:

We are glad to see that the name of Gov. Chase *is* becoming intimately associated in public discussion with the next nomination of the Republican party for the Presidency. No man has been mentioned in connection with this high position, as the candidate of a party in 1860, who combines in himself higher qualifications for the position, and a more consistent political or pure personal history than Governor Chase . . .

In thus speaking of Gov. Chase we have merely availed ourselves of an opportunity of expressing opinion of a man who in every position has sustained the confidence of his friends and his own self-respect. We advocate as a Republican paper the claims of no man for the nomination of the next Republican National Convention. We have, indeed, heard no name suggested for this nomination as a Republican candidate for the Presidency in 1860, which we would not cheerfully support and with that zeal which ever marks our course when sustaining good men backed by good principles. We believe, however, that no Republican combines greater elements of popularity with less objectionable qualities, than Gov. Chase—in other words, that no Republican would make a better race. . . .

Two days later Mr. S. S. Daniels, editor of *The Tipton Advertiser*, discussing “The Next Presidential Contest” said among other things:

We do not intend to discuss the merits of the different men for the office of President and are willing to vote for any of the men who have been named for that office. At the same time we would like much to see Hon. Frank Wade, U. S. Senator from Ohio, brought out as our next candidate. Mr. Wade occupies a very favorable position before the American people; he has never taken *ultra* grounds, while he has ever stood up for the right, and has done it in such a way that none have ever dared to oppose him as they have many others. Frank Wade is *excepted* when wholesale charges are made against the Republicans; he has made many speeches but they were all good; he has said nor done nothing which will injure him in any way.

It is not uninteresting to note that Messrs. Sanders and Daniels were both, prior to coming to Iowa, residents of Ohio, hence doubtless their predilection for the distinguished sons of that State.

### 3. *The Reception of Greeley's Suggestion for a Coalition of the Opposition.*

Meantime there had been a pronouncement, as it were, *ex cathedra*. For the greater part of two years the *New York Tribune* had been urging, with a view to the contest in 1860, the elements of the Opposition to pursue a policy of conciliation and concession relative to each other, to combine on matters of common agreement and ignore the collateral issues peculiar to groups or sections, however important they might seem to them severally, but which were minor and subsidiary as respects the central and predominant issue and if urged would make for dissension and defeat. The paramount demand of the Opposition, north and south, was the maintenance of Freedom in the non-slave States and the restriction of Slavery within its original or then established limits. Victory in the approaching contest depended upon the dislodgment of Slavocracy from seats of authority and this end could not be achieved except by concentration and simultaneous forward movement of all available forces in a common attack. The ambitions of leaders were immaterial and like local interests and particular "isms" should and must give way to the imperative demands of the situation. Greeley had urged Republicans to support Douglas after he broke with the Administration over the Lecompton Constitution. He opposed the candidacy of Lincoln against Douglas for the Senate, and during the debates maintained a stubborn editorial silence. Immediately upon their conclusion he reiterated his belief that wisdom favored his original suggestion, lodging some sharp criticisms against Lincoln's tactics in the canvass.<sup>1</sup> Thereafter, at short intervals he renewed his contention that a coalition was imperative, insisting that common sense and

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<sup>1</sup>*N. Y. Tribune* (w.), Nov. 27, 1858.

prudence enjoined it.<sup>1</sup> In a long editorial entitled "The Presidency in 1860," (April 26) he restated the grounds for his position. "We do not deem it necessary again to contradict the rumors from time to time set afloat that we are laboring to nominate and elect A, B or C. The single end we keep in mind is the triumph of our principles . . . . In the last Presidential contest the votes of the American people were divided as follows:

Buchanan, 1,838,232; Fremont, 1,341,514; Fillmore, 874,707; Fremont and Fillmore over Buchanan, 377,989.

"Of course it is plain that a substantial, practical union of the electors who supported Fremont and Fillmore respectively insures a triumph in 1860, even though there should be a sealing off on either side, as there possibly would be. We can afford to lose one hundred thousand of the Opposition vote in 1856 and still carry the next President by a handsome majority." After pointing out that there was no essential variance among the Whigs and the native Americans respecting Slavery he says concerning candidates: "Most certainly we should prefer an original Republican—Governor Seward or Governor Chase—but we shall heartily and zealously support one like John Bell, Edward Bates, or John M. Botts, provided that we are assured that his influence, his patronage, his power, if chosen President will be used not to extend Slavery but to confine it to the States that see fit to uphold it." The editorial closes with the words: "When speech tends to irritate and distract, unspeakable is the wisdom of silence."

This was the language of common sense, the language of men who canvass their experiences and are governed by the lessons which they enjoin and enforce. But sensible though the editorial was, its suggestions drew forth sharp rejoinders. The assertion that *The Tribune* would heartily support Bell, Bates or Botts at once aroused the Germans of Iowa and

<sup>1</sup>See *Ib.* (s. w.), "Union of the Opposition," Dec. 10, 1858; "The Opposition in 1860," Jan. 4, 1860; "The Presidency," Jan. 18. In the latter the charge that *The Tribune* is opposing Seward is denied.

The assumption above (and subsequently) that Horace Greeley penned the editorials defining the attitude of *The Tribune* towards the Republican Presidential nomination may be subject to question, as Charles A. Dana was Greeley's *alter ego* and frequently had entire charge of that paper. Nevertheless there seems to be grounds for thinking that Greeley probably struck the dominant notes and gave direction to the editorial policy. Dana, however, concurred and heartily supported his chief. See Gen. Jas. H. Wilson's *Life of Charles A. Dana*, pp. 161-2.

thence of the entire country. All three men were considered to be tainted with Know-Nothingism by reason of their public support of Fillmore in 1856 and were further deemed to be in close association with the leaders of the American party. In the furious reaction against the Massachusetts Amendment that ensued in the next three months the Democrats and Germans alike cited the editorial as proof of their contention that the Republicans had natural affiliations and a virtual alliance with the anti-foreign propagandists.<sup>1</sup> Greeley's insistence upon a coalition of the entire Opposition on the basis of non-extension of Slavery elicited some slashing criticisms.

On the same day Greeley's editorial appeared, Mr. Dunham gave expression to sentiment directly in conflict with the major suggestion of *The Tribune*. On April 22, *The Press and Tribune* of Chicago had set forth what it deemed the correct position for the Republican party to take in the campaign in 1860. Commending the views of his contemporary, Mr. Dunham observed: "The views there advanced are not entirely original, being in substance those advanced by Mr. Lincoln in the late senatorial canvass, and more recently by Senator Seward in his great speech on the destiny of our country; . . ." The true basis for the Opposition, he contended, is principle and not the petty partizan considerations that masquerade under the name of "policy." But in the large there is a concurrence of principle and policy—a fact that discerning statesmen and experienced political chiefs realize and aim at in practical politics. The Republican party came into existence because it placed principles and rights before expediency and Mammon; and its strength and success in the approaching contest would so depend. "As a party of principle . . . it has attained its present high position, and shall it now abandon its positive existence, animated by strong principles, and become a negative party, held together only by the spoils, and vainly seeking to alter its course to suit every trifling circumstance. Better, always, defeat with honor, than victory with disgrace. So-called conservatives

<sup>1</sup>See writer's detailed account, *Annals of Iowa*, 3d Series, Vol. 8, pp. 206-213.



over-fearful of what is termed *sectional*, and trembling at the empty threats of southern fire-eaters, are apt even to yield what is right, forgetting that right should be supported, even though it be sectional."<sup>1</sup> Greeley's contention that the Opposition would lessen its strength, and invite defeat, by taking a radical, "sectional" stand upon Slavery that would alienate large numbers normally hostile to the principles and policies of the Administration, was not anticipated or met by Mr. Dunham.

Greeley's views, however, met immediately with direct and emphatic rejoinders. One of the most interesting and vigorous came from the pen of Thomas Drummond of Vinton, a veritable Hotspur in the journalism and politics of the period. He was a Virginian by birth and education and this fact no doubt accounts in considerable measure for the vigor and vivacity of his utterances. He took direct issue with Greeley's proposal for an alliance of the Opposition. His expressions are so typical of the sentiments of the aggressive opponents of Slavery, who were at the time staunch Republican partizans, that his editorial "Spoils or Principles in 1860" is given at considerable length:

The Republican party is not yet quite four years old . . .

Unfortunately the party is just now cursed with a lot of officious political mid-wives . . . who, when it is in perfect health and only awaits its appointed time, are throwing themselves into an agony of apprehension about its safety and insist on doctoring and prescribing for it. Their headquarters are in New York and Horace Greeley of the *New York Tribune* is their chief. It really seems to us the deliberate purpose of that paper to prevent a Republican victory if possible . . .

It is the professed aim of *The Tribune* and its co-laborers to bring about an alliance of what is termed the "entire opposition" to the Democratic party which would embrace Republicans, Know-Nothings, Southern Whigs and Douglas Democrats . . . This we hold is impossible and, if possible unwise and foolish in the extreme. Success at such a price would be barren of good results. . . .

What is the position, what are the doctrines of that body of so-called Conservatives for whose co-operation with them, such strenuous efforts are now being made by Eastern Republicans? We leave out of account the Douglas Democrats, as a miserable Falstaffian rabble, not worth looking after, and answer, they are mainly a class of men who are wedded to the past, old fogies who cling like

Crittenden and Bates to the recollections and teachings of a former age. . . .

The basis of Republicanism is its recognition and advocacy of the "inalienable rights of man" and its purpose, a steady and unceasing opposition to Slavery extension, and to the very existence of the institution itself. . . . This at least is Western Republicanism and the party in the West is not to be sold out by its professed brethren in the East. The attempt to do so met with a signal rebuke last Fall in Illinois and will fail as signally if attempted a year hence. The nomination of Bates or Crittenden or any of their associates as candidates for the Presidency, or any emasculation of its platform will be the signal for a revolt of the genuine old Anti-Slavery element of the party, that which has been its very life blood; and its organization upon the platform of eternal antagonism to Slavery in the territories or elsewhere.

The Republican party adopts what the *New York Herald* terms "the bloody, brutal manifesto" of Abraham Lincoln, as re-echoed by Senator Seward, that there is and must be a steady conflict between Slavery and Freedom until one or the other goes to the wall—until this Union becomes all slave or all free.<sup>1</sup>

Two weeks later he expressed his satisfaction anent the fact that "the persistent efforts of certain eastern Republicans and their organs to pave the way for a coalition of all the odds and ends . . . are meeting with small favor in the great Northwest."<sup>2</sup> About the same time Mr. Frank W. Palmer expressed similar sentiments in *The Times* of Dubuque: "'Conservative' men everywhere North as well as South, may plot and plan as much as they please. There will be no half-and-half ticket in 1860. . . . If the old Whigs and Americans are ready to co-operate with Republicans . . . there may be a Union . . . but any attempt by a lot of conservative old fogies to patch up a platform in which Northern Republicans will occupy an indifferent or even a secondary position, will prove a disgraceful failure."<sup>2</sup> Mr. Charles Aldrich, on the contrary did not concur with his contemporaries in repelling the suggestion of *The Tribune* but gave it his favor, if we may so conclude from his reprinting without adverse comment the major part of Greeley's editorial urging fusion, including those portions referring to Bell, Bates and Botts.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>*The Eagle*, May 10, 1859.

<sup>2</sup>*Ibid.*

<sup>3</sup>*The Hamilton Freeman*, May 14, 1859.

About the same time Mr. Teesdale gave expression to sentiments that illustrate the vague and variable distinctions that northern anti-slavery Republicans were prone to insist upon in their attitude toward southern anti-slavery sympathizers of the Clay school. Commenting upon the course of Crittenden who had but recently given public endorsement to the candidacy of Joshua F. Bell for Governor of Kentucky on the Whig ticket, he says:

Mr. Crittenden has just taken a step that effectually bars all hope of his nomination for the Presidency by a Republican convention. He has endorsed Mr. Bell, the American, or Opposition candidate for Governor of Kentucky. Mr. Bell is a pro-slavery man; and, like Goggin of Virginia, seeks to outstrip the Democratic nominee, in his professions of allegiance to slavery and the Slave Power. Deeply do we deplore this step of Mr. C. He has a host of friends in the free states who honored him for the manly stand he took in opposition to the Lecompton fraud, and in favor of the rights of Kansas. It is clear that Mr. Crittenden does not expect a position in the presidential arena; and equally clear that all attempts to secure Southern support, by ignoring the great issue before the American people, is worse than vain. "It is worse than a crime; it is a blunder," . . . If we would command respect . . . we must stand up for the political faith delivered to the fathers of the Republic. Their politics was a part of their religion, and their religion was a part of their politics. They knew no policy inconsistent with a proper recognition of the rights of man.<sup>1</sup>

Mr. Teesdale's attitude in May was not exactly consistent with his position in April. He does not specify that Senator Crittenden had made himself impossible or unavailable as a candidate because of his "Americanistic" affiliations in Kentucky,—a consideration that properly would have had great weight in the North; but he contends that his endorsement of a man who did not violently oppose Slavery, but asserted its right to be where it was found, was fatal to his nomination. Crittenden's position on Slavery had not varied. He did not approve of Slavery as an ideal condition in theory or in the concrete, he did not desire to encourage its growth, and he did not promote its extension. His opposition to the Lecompton constitution demonstrated that he was "more of a patriot and less of a politician." Let Slavery alone where

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<sup>1</sup>*The Weekly Citizen*, May 8, 1859.

it was,—keep it where it was,—respect the rights of the owners of slaves,—do not constantly agitate the question and disturb the peace of mind of those who possess such property, no matter how undesirable human chattels may be in abstract ethics or difficult of adjustment in practical affairs. The South should not be a subject of constant “assault.” If we except the inconsistency of the Republican denunciation of the Dred Scott decision and their valorous insistence upon the sacredness of the national constitution and the rights of Slavocrats south of the Ohio, Crittenden’s position on Slavery squared with the views of nine Republicans out of ten in the North.<sup>1</sup>

The second quarter of the year closed with an expression from Mr. Howell in *The Gate City* respecting the candidacy of Simon Cameron that voiced an opinion that became very common among prudent politicians of much discernment and experience. Noting the fact that “Lately the Republican press of Pennsylvania has been rapidly coalescing upon him,” he says, “With no disposition to recommend candidates at this early period, we may say, however, that Pennsylvania and Illinois will be the battle-ground of the next campaign. There are men for whom those two States can be carried. But they are very few. These two plain facts will go very far and should go very far towards limiting the range of speculation concerning candidates.”<sup>2</sup> Victory perches on the standards of those who command effective forces at the crucial points—and such were the doubtful States.

<sup>1</sup>Coleman’s *Life of John J. Crittenden*, Vol. II, p. 154, et seq.—passion.

<sup>2</sup>*The Gate City*, June 28, 1859.



# ANNALS OF IOWA.

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## EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT

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### EDITORIAL TRANSITION.

The third series of the *Annals of Iowa* was projected by the founder of the Historical Department as an auxiliary to the activities in which he was engaged. Through it has been gathered and preserved a vast amount of material on formative Iowa. But precious thoughts of men have not only been thus gathered. By publication and exchange of these, *The Annals* has brought many times its cost in the value of picture, book, document, map, manuscript, relic and trophy for the different collections. Its run of sixteen years, closing with the January number, embraced the ripest thought and finest skill of a brilliant man, Charles Aldrich, who died March 8th, 1908, and of a cultured, faithful woman, his assistant, Miss Mary R. Whitcomb, who died April 8th, 1909. The duties of Mr. Aldrich were assigned to us at his death, about a year from the time of entering his service as an assistant. These duties were materially shared and lightened by Miss Whitcomb, whose full value may now for the first be known outside this office through the tribute appearing elsewhere in this issue. With the positions of Curator and a chief assistant vacant we venture to issue the first number of the ninth volume of *The Annals*. The contributions it contains are very fit to connect even the splendid work of the founder with that of his successor, whoever he may be. No effort has been made either to exactly pattern after one or present a model for another editorial regime.

## MISS MARY R. WHITCOMB.

Miss Mary R. Whitecomb, Assistant Curator of the Historical Department of Iowa, died in Des Moines, April 8, 1909. By a few days exceeding a year her death followed the death of the founder and builder of the Department, the late Charles Aldrich, whose faithful and efficient assistant she was for twelve years.

Miss Whitecomb was born in Grinnell, Iowa, April 4, 1860. Like so many sons and daughters of that college town she came of fine stock. Her ancestry on both sides was of New England blood and she exhibited all of those traits of disposition and culture that give so much flavor to the characters and conduct of descendants of the Puritans—a constant endeavor after intellectual achievement and culture, a stern discipline of life by conscience and industry, and devotion to high ideals in religion and public service. Her mother, pursuant to a practice that was common with the ambitious youth of New England, was for some time a teacher in the wilds of Tennessee. As a result of Mr. J. B. Grinnell's letters to the *N. Y. Tribune* her parents came west in 1854, joining their fortunes with the pioneers of the town of Grinnell, where they became considerable factors in church and communal life.

Miss Whitecomb spent her childhood and youth in Grinnell. She graduated from the city High School in 1877 and entered Iowa College the fall of that year. In the College halls and classes she speedily demonstrated high order of ability and force of character, that won admiration and aroused expectations of future achievement among classmates that included such men as Professor Oliver F. Emerson, now of Western Reserve University of Cleveland, Professor George M. Whicher of New York City College, and Mr. George White, a distinguished American Missionary in Turkey, Asia Minor, and a Professor in Marsivan College. The death of her mother in 1881 prevented Miss Whitecomb graduating with her class in 1882.

Beginning in the fall of 1883 Miss Whitecomb began teaching in the public schools of Grinnell where she continued for the next three years. In 1886, following in the footsteps of

her mother nearly half a century before, she went to Mobile, Ala., to teach in a school for negro children, conducted by the American Missionary Association. She remained at that post for four years. She enjoyed the buoyancy and artless, boundless simplicity of the negroes; and animated by the serene, superb self-sufficiency of a missionary, she laughed at the snubs and social ostracism to which she was subject at the hands of the haughty Southerners among whom she went in the course of her work. Full of charm and rich in instruction as were her experiences in that Southern city, they were finally to prove disastrous to her health. In 1890 she fell ill of a malady (incident to the region) which fastened upon her delicate constitution with a firm grip, leaving her a weak heart that ultimately was to succumb to overtax from routine and responsibility. She was forced to abandon her work and come North. She entered school work again in the fall of 1890 at Dundee, Ill., where she continued until the Christmas vacation of 1891. While on a visit at Grinnell her health gave way to nervous prostration and for a time death seemed imminent. Despite the adverse opinions of physicians, in the course of a year she slowly recovered. With such feeble health most persons would have lapsed into a career of invalidism; but to her the role of the invalid, with doleful countenance and mournful complaints was utterly intolerable. Summoning the pluck of her stock she again set about the task of an independent livelihood. In March 1894 she was appointed to the position of assistant in the State Library. She remained there until 1896, when she was appointed by Mr. Charles Aldrich as assistant in the Historical Department wherein she continued to work until her death.

Amidst the books and documents, the papers and periodicals, and the rare and precious records of the past that weighted the shelves of alcove and workroom, Miss Whitcomb came into her own. Books and literature were a part of her family traditions and made much of the warp and woof of her life. In the serene silence of library, she found tasks sufficient, congenial, satisfying, affording both delight and culture, making life worth while. Existence to her was not sharply divided

"in books or work or healthful play" as Watts specifies. She found all three in one and in one place.

Her fondness and fitness for her new work she demonstrated forthwith by that sure sign of an efficient worker—instant and constant attention to the details and minutia of the administration of the Library. She was not a mere clerk whose sole concern was the receipt of an increasing stipend with decreasing effort. The care of old tomes, were they never so tattered and torn, never so musty and mouldy, was not a disgusting or drearissime drudgery. To her it was a part of her profession whence information, instruction, aye, a liberal culture in the ancient and honorable craft of Gutenberg and Caxton was obtainable if one will but enter upon the work with an alert, discerning eye and persistent purpose. Inquiry about books and data from students or strangers was never met with a nonchalant response, "I don't know," simply and perhaps *sotto voce* "I don't care either." All information she possessed and all her resources for securing the facts were immediately placed at the disposal of the inquirer. Her memory was vigorous and facile and if she had ever looked the matter up the data desired was forthcoming almost at once. If unfamiliar to her, her search for it was immediate and without stint until she had discovered the document or learned definitely that the library did not possess it. More than this it was her wont to keep the inquiry in mind for weeks and months and after you had ceased to expect or perhaps to think of the subject she would report some find or give some clew to the data wished.

But Miss Whitecomb did not rest content with being an active, helpful-executive worker merely. She was more than faithful and industrious. She made her work her own. She sought constantly to enhance the usefulness of the Collections; and the Department and the public were the beneficiaries of her constructive work. She installed a card index of the books, newspapers, pamphlets and portraits; and she classified and arranged all books on the shelves and labeled and numbered them according to the schedules of the Dewey System. She did not supervise others; she did the actual mechanical work herself. During the past eight years, if not for a longer



period, she had practical charge of the publication of *The Annals*, editing and preparing the contributions for the printers and carrying the burden of proof-reading. In the later years she in large measure determined the character of the contents. In building up the collections she chiefly attended to the selection of the books purchased. She devoted particular attention to the acquisition of materials bearing upon the history of our Indian tribes, the growth of Iowa, Western History, the Civil War, and Genealogical collections.

Over and above these matters her constructive abilities were displayed in some scholarly contributions to the history of Iowa. *The Annals* contain three interesting and valuable articles from her pen: The first, "Reminiscences of Gen. Jas. C. Parrott," (Vol. III., pp. 364-383); the second, "Mrs. Annie Wittenmyer," (Vol. IV., pp. 277-288); and the third, "Abner Kneeland: His relations to Early Iowa History," (Vol. VI., pp. 340-363). The latter is her most substantial study. It deals with the stormy career of the much maligned founder of Salubria, whose character and conduct as a "Free-Thinker" was anathema, sixty years since, to all churchmen from Massachusetts to the Missouri "Slope." Miss Whitcomb, without entering upon the debatable grounds of his doctrines gives us a solid account of his chequered, not to say, tempestuous career in Massachusetts and Iowa, recovering for us and presenting in lucid narrative the major facts of the life of one of New England's most interesting characters. Her study was an earnest of the scholarly work she would have done but for the hindrance of feeble health. At the time of her death she had a considerable body of memorabilia of her late chief, Charles Aldrich, in the form of correspondence, notes and rescripts of conversations and his racy sayings, which she hoped sometime to weld into a story or into sketches of the character of Mr. Aldrich whom she knew and admired thoroughly and served so faithfully and well.

Some of the most interesting phases of Miss Whitcomb's life and character were manifest in her relations with Mr. Aldrich. When she entered upon her work in the Department in 1896, Mr. Aldrich was approaching what for most men is life's last mile post—three score and ten. But to him then life was full

of zest. He was pursuing the chief ambition of his life with a vigor that was bringing things to pass. But the currents of hope and zeal that charged his soul energized a frail body hampered by feeble health and cruelly racked by bronchial affliction. The minutia of execution, the prosaic details of adjustment in the aggravating circumstances of practical decision, distracted and fretted him; anon they got "on his nerves" and sometimes harassed him. He must needs have a care-taker whose judgment was competent and whose earnestness and loyalty would enable him to realize his major purposes. Miss Whitecomb had not been long in the Department before her alert intelligence, industry, and efficiency, especially her manner of doing things, won Mr. Aldrich's confidence completely; and in the work of the Department she soon became his *alter ego*. Discernment, discrimination, discretion were marked elements in her conduct. She realized fully the public significance of his work and the necessity for caution and constant attention to the thousand and one little things that constitute the grit and muss of daily work, and make or mar matters of moment according as they are scrupulously attended to or neglected. She was an excellent counselor because while she always felt deeply and strongly upon matters that engaged her serious attention; she never lost her head. In questions of taste she possessed a keen appreciation of the niceties of expression and form, and of fitness as to time and place. In matters of policy she looked fore and aft. Equipoise and firmness, sanity and sobriety, characterized her judgment when affairs brought perplexity. So sane, reliable and sufficient was her counsel that the brunt and burden of the work of the Department slowly, as the months grew into years, fell upon her shoulders, and the responsibility for its conduct gravitated completely into her safe-keeping.

Miss Whitcomb possessed a personality that displayed varied and striking characteristics—most of them peculiar to her New England blood. In speech she was concise and direct, nice and precise. In her work there was no fuss or splutter; she was quiet and steady and systematic. Her desk was always in "ship-shape" condition so that she could put her hand on any paper she had in her care. In matters of business

she was exacting—statements and details had to be explicit and complete. To inquiries her responses were immediate, plump, frank, unequivocal. She hit the nail and nothing else. In her relations with casual acquaintances or visitors her conversation was marked by brevity but it was not unkindly and was sufficient for the purpose. Miss Whitecomb was not one of the oppressive species that seeks constantly to impress people with the high character of their achievements, with their fame and importance in the Commonwealth, or to captivate by artful graciousness and effusive courtesies and pretences of devotion. In her greetings of old-time friends and acquaintances and in converse with them she was cordial. If ill health did not depress she was vivacious in conversation, quick in repartee; a winsome smile, illumining her clear blue eyes and finely chiseled features, would indicate her pleasure, or a blithesome laugh signify her appreciation of the point of a story or the edge of a witty remark. She did not cultivate people or seek to extend the circuit of her influence as is the wont of mortals. She enjoyed a small circle of friends and got pleasure in the ordinary forms of simple diversion. Conversation with her did not run into idle tittle-tattle either petty or malevolent. Books and nature, science and scholarship, and works of art, music and painting, the careers and doings of friends—and silence, the rarest privilege of friendship of the solid sort—characterized her intercourse with her friends. But her relations with her intimate friends and associates were not common.

Her normal human nature, her personal interest, her attachments and prejudices, she demonstrated in sundry subtle ways obvious only to the sharply observant, but her manner of address and converse was generally distinguished by aloofness and reserve. Her friends saw her, talked with her, knew her; nevertheless they were aware that she herself stood apart, remote. She indulged neither herself nor her friends nor associates with confidences that make up so much of the ordinary friendships and color relationships of life. Those she held in high esteem she not infrequently greeted with a brusqueness and hauteur, sometimes with an acerbity of speech that would perplex those unfamiliar with the charac-

teristics of her manner; but her intimates knew that physical distress or depression was the antecedent condition and immediate cause. The most notable phase of her reserve was her complete reticence respecting her life and personal experiences outside of the routine of the office.

In her relations with Mr. Aldrich, Miss Whitcomb exhibited another interesting phase of her self-restraint. In no respect was she forward or presumptuous with opinions—not even when the entire administration of the internal affairs of the Department had become her special charge. She tendered no opinions as to plans or policy unsolicited. If she proffered suggestions or made recommendations they were incident to work previously assigned her. She never went ahead on her own motion, even though she might feel certain that she would be directed to attend to the work in hand. Her deference was complete and likewise her courtesy. From these qualities, coupled with her efficiency, grew Mr. Aldrich's confidence in her loyalty and his assurance that the affairs of the Department were in safe hands under her prudent administration.

To her associates and co-workers in the Department there was no part of her character or conduct more interesting than her influence over Mr. Aldrich and the modes of its exercise. Mr. Aldrich was a man of vigorous character and staunch will, once his mind was made up—and from the major plans of his designs for the development of the Department he seldom or never retreated; but in the tactics of their promotion, in the minor manoeuvres of their daily advancement he would frequently act on impulse—particularly was he likely to allow personal friendships to obscure his vision and prompt to action that sundry considerations of far-sighted policy would enjoin. He seldom failed to ask her advice before proceeding and if she did not concur, her disapproval was usually effective. To Mr. Aldrich her disapproval created a presumption that he must be wrong and consequently her better judgment should prevail.

Miss Whitcomb cared nothing for the tawdry fame of much mention in the public prints, so anxiously sought by persons of common mould. She found her delight and her solace in her work, in its details and exactions. But she shrank from



the public responsibilities of office that brought her into clash with petty critics or collision with the warring elements of politics. Her health could not stand the wear and tear of contention. With her chief to serve as the steel edge of the wedge and take the brunt of the forward push of the work she could serve masterfully. In the latter years she carried easily the whole load of petty detail and supervised the general administration. Without a question she prolonged the life and vigor of Mr. Aldrich at the critical period of his public career, enabling him to prosecute his work with success and realize e'er death closed his eyes the dreams of his youth and to gaze upon the stately structure on Capitol hill wherein his precious collections are now safeguarded against the thieves of time. Her life and work, her charm and force of character will live long in the memories of those who had the privilege of coming within the circuit of her influence.

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#### RESOLUTIONS.

ADOPTED BY BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE STATE LIBRARY AND HISTORICAL DEPARTMENT.

WHEREAS, since our last meeting death has removed Miss Mary R. Whitcomb, Assistant Curator of this Department and for many years the efficient and ever faithful Secretary of this Board;

And, WHEREAS, we desire to place of record some token of our high regard and esteem for the departed;

And, WHEREAS, we are fully aware of the inestimable value and importance of her work to the State increased and multiplied by the enfeebled condition of health and death of her superior, Hon. Charles Aldrich;

And, WHEREAS, she always bore her burdens without complaint, did more than her duty without grumbling, continued at her work without regard to her personal convenience, efficiently performed every task and satisfactorily served during many years as Secretary of this Board:

Now, therefore, *Be It Resolved*;

1. That we deeply deplore our loss, and knowing full well the value of her work to the State, sincerely regret that it has been deprived of her most efficient services.

2. That to her relatives we extend our sincere sympathy, and that

3. These resolutions be spread of record as a memento to her faithfulness and efficiency.

## NOTABLE DEATHS.

JOSEPH WILLIAM BLYTHE was born at Cranberry, N. J., January 16, 1850; he died near Wapello, Louisa county, Iowa, while temporarily absent from his home at Burlington, March 6, 1909. He was the son of Joseph William and Ellen Henrietta (Green) Blythe. He was educated at Lawrenceville, N. J., High School and Princeton College, graduating with the degree of A. B. Subsequently he received the A. M. degree from his alma mater, that of LL. D. from Hanover (Ind.) College and Bethany (Kan.) College. He commenced the practice of the law in Burlington, Iowa, in 1874, and a year later the firm of Hedge & Blythe was organized, which was never formally dissolved. Mr. Blythe came to Iowa as assistant attorney for the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad Company, under Judge David Rorer, and his service for that Company was his life's work. At the time of his death, he held the position of General Counsel, with headquarters at Chicago, but always retained his home and residence in Burlington. He was a great lawyer, not a case lawyer who knew the law because he found it in the books, but one who knew that the law was or should be founded in reason. He was well grounded in the general principles of the profession. His intelligent application of fundamental rules enabled him to form clear, logical and correct opinions upon complicated matters. He was not a politician from either inclination or choice; it was simply with him the logic of events. Representing great corporate interests at a time when the public mind was governed by prejudice rather than reason, it was inevitable that his duties should require him to take an interest in public affairs. With his fascinating personal qualities, with his great powers of discernment, and above all, with his commanding intelligence and ability, he could not escape leadership. Much of Mr. Blythe's activity in politics, especially in his later years, was for the single purpose of helping his friends. Asking no personal preferment, he was always ready to help others. After his graduation from Princeton, he was for some years an instructor in the Lawrenceville, N. J., preparatory school. He was well informed upon all subjects of modern progress, his reading and information not being confined to his special line of work. He was at all times a most delightful, interesting and instructive companion. He was a wonderful judge of human nature. He took a broad, liberal, statesmanlike and common-sense view of important public questions. With his friends and with his adversaries he was fair and open. He hated dissimulation and hypocrisy. He admired frankness and courage. He was once asked how he accounted for his multitude of loyal friends. His reply was characteristic. He said, "If I have such friends, it must be because of my brutal frankness"; and so it was. He fearlessly told the truth, and men loved and admired him for it. No greater tribute can be paid to this man's memory than to say that for more than twenty years he was the dominant factor in the public life and affairs of Iowa, and during all of that time no man ever questioned his high sense of personal honor and integrity. If, instead of giving his life to corporate employment, he had accepted public office, he would easily have taken front rank with those of Iowa's sons who have given our State a place in history. Joseph

William Blythe, the man, as he really was, highly educated, thoroughly refined, a great lawyer, a cultured scholar, was unknown to a majority of the people of Iowa. Especially to those living outside of the territory of southern Iowa, he was only known as an able corporation lawyer and a politician of commanding power and influence. But to those who enjoyed his personal friendship and confidence, the accomplishments of the lawyer and the politician were the least of his acquirements. But because of the interests he represented, he received cruel and undeserved criticism. In the face of this he was a philosopher, uttering no unkind words and making no complaint. He believed that time would secure him a proper measure of justice.

J. C. D.

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THOMAS D. HEALY was born in Lansing, Iowa, May 25, 1865; he died at Fort Dodge, January 15, 1909. He was educated at Notre Dame University, Indiana, the Law Department of the State University of Iowa, and the University of Michigan. With his parents he removed in 1883 to Fort Dodge, Iowa, where he continued to reside until his death. Soon after his admission to the bar, Mr. Healy entered upon the practice of his profession at Fort Dodge and continued therein actively during the remainder of his life. He early developed a deep and intelligent interest in public affairs, where his superior ability backed by an ardent temperament and unswerving courage soon won for him a position of leadership. In 1895 he was elected to the State Senate, where he served with high honor during the Twenty-sixth, Twenty-seventh, Twenty-eighth and Twenty-ninth General Assemblies. In constructive, reformatory and progressive legislation he was a leader among leaders. He was largely influential, if not the decisive factor, in the establishment of a State Board of Control. In framing the Code of 1897 he took a conspicuous part. He had a quick intuitive perception of the moral tendency of public measures and was at all times and everywhere the uncompromising foe of political indirection and official graft. The history of Iowa records the name of no more influential legislator and none whose vote, voice and influence were more uniformly or efficiently exercised for the benefit of the people whom he served. Upon the retirement of Judge O. P. Shiras from the bench of the Federal Court for the Northern District of Iowa, he became a candidate for that position. He had, to a remarkable degree, the support of the bar and the people of the district, but the positive nature of his convictions and the uncompromisingly independent character of his course as a member of the Senate had excited the set hostility of powerful interests whose influence in certain official quarters was sufficient to prevent his success. Events have moved rapidly since then, and of the Iowa names passing into history connected with that episode, the inner story of which has yet to be written, none will be remembered with deeper or more abiding respect than that of the defeated candidate. At the close of his second senatorial term, Mr. Healy took position as the Iowa attorney for the Great Western Railway Company and later entered into like relations with the Illinois Central Railroad Company, continuing meanwhile a large and important general practice in connection with the firm of which he was a member. He became the victim of his own passion for work. Never a man of robust health, the burdens of rapidly expanding



business and increasing responsibilities proved at length too great for even his limitless nervous energy and unconquerable determination. His death is a distinct loss to the State and his place in the van of the struggle for civic righteousness will not be easily filled. To his immediate circle of friends he was not simply Thomas D. Healy, lawyer, politician or statesman, but he was "Tom," the most lovable and loyal of companions. The flash of his righteous indignation over a mean or unworthy act was no quicker or warmer than his tear of sympathy with a friend in sorrow. Quick at repartee, the shaft of his wit was never tipped with poison. Generous to a fault, no draft upon his friendship ever went to protest. In his family relations as son, brother, husband and father he was singularly fortunate and in each his love and loyalty knew neither limit or reserve. Short as was his life it has shed honor upon his beloved native State, and the memory of his excellent personal qualities will long remain an inspiration to those who knew him best.

S. M. W.

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NANNIE CANTWELL WALLACE was the second daughter of Col. James Cantwell, of Kenton, Ohio. She was educated in the schools of Mansfield and the college at Delaware, Ohio. Her father was the organizer of the Fourth Ohio regiment, of which he was lieutenant-colonel, from which he resigned and organized the Eighty-second Ohio, of which he was colonel. He fell in the second battle of Bull Run in August, 1862. She was married to Henry Wallace at Kenton, Ohio, in September, 1863, and entered upon the duties of a pastor's wife at Rock Island, Ill., and Davenport, Iowa. From 1871 to 1879 she discharged like duties at Morning Sun, Iowa, and from 1877 to 1889 at Winterset, Iowa. In 1889 her husband's work in agricultural journalism required their removal to Des Moines, where they have since resided. She became a valuable aid in her husband's agricultural publications and activities; for many years editing the department of Hearts and Homes in *Wallace's Farmer*. She was a charter member of the Des Moines Women's Club; one of the founders of the Des Moines Women's Press Club; a member of the Board of Trustees of the Iowa Home for the Aged from the beginning; a member of the Women's Relief Corps of Crocker Post, G. A. R.; and the organizer of the Daughters of Ceres, a club for the education of country women of which chapters were organized in nearly every section of the State. She was a delegate from Iowa to the National Federation of Women's Clubs in Boston, in 1908; was for a number of years a member of the Scudery Club, and of the Iowa Humane Society. At the time of her death she was about sixty-nine years of age. She was a friend of Charles Aldrich and an aid in his work of founding the Historical Department of Iowa.

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SILAS CLARK MCFARLAND, a well known Iowa editor and publisher, died in Germany, October 24, 1908. If the deceased had lived until June 3d, of this year, he would have been fifty years of age. He was a son of Colonel Samuel C. McFarland, who commanded the 19th Iowa Infantry in the civil war, and who was killed leading his regiment at the battle of Prairie Grove. The deceased's mother was a sister to the late Judge John S. Woolson. Mr. McFarland had been in the consular service since 1899, serving at Nottingham,



England; Reichenberg, Austria; St. Gall, Switzerland, and being a supervisor of consulates with headquarters at Berlin at the time of his death. While he did not establish the Marshalltown *Times-Republican*, his sixteen years' work on that paper, from 1883 to 1899, made it one of the important publications of the State. As a writer he was incisive and direct; as a publisher wide awake and enterprising. He believed that the business of a newspaper was to publish the news. In attempting his ideals in that respect, he was willing to spend both time and money. Among his fellow editors his standing was high. His death in his prime is especially mourned. He was a tall, erect, strong, manly man, as his father was before him. He had the power to both originate and carry out ideas. He had the confidence of the readers of his paper. He never struck below the belt. In all his contests he fought fair. In politics he was a power. In his editorial work he was anxious to build up his home city and the State. He loved to pick out the strong men and to help them. His help was unselfish. In regard to himself, or any of his achievements, he was modest to the limit. L. Y.

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RICHARD C. BARRETT was born at Waverly, Iowa, October 1, 1858; he died at Des Moines, Iowa, March 3, 1909. He was educated in the public schools and at Decorah Institute and began teaching at an early age. When but 19 he assumed the principalship of the Riceville schools. Six years later he was elected county superintendent of Mitchell county, serving ten years in that office. In 1895 Cornell College conferred upon him the degree of A. M., and in 1904 Drake University that of LL. D. In 1897 he was elected State Superintendent of Public Instruction, succeeding Henry Sabin, serving three terms. He was then elected to the Chair of Civics of Iowa State College at Ames. As a member of the faculty and as chairman of the Committee on Entrance Requirements and Secondary School Relations, Professor Barrett rendered very important service to the State. His wide acquaintance with public schools and public school teachers of Iowa, his intelligent sympathy with all educational interests and his personal qualities adapted him to a difficult task. He succeeded in an extraordinary degree. For at least a generation to come the State College and public schools of Iowa will bless his memory for his wise counsels and his inspiring influence. A. B. S.

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WILLIAM H. QUICK was born in Hamburg, Sussex county, N. J., July 1, 1832; he died at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Foster Ingalls, in Des Moines, January 5, 1909. In 1852 he became a brakeman on the New York & Erie Railroad. In 1853 he became a baggageman on what is now the C. R. I. & P. Railway, and in 1855 was made conductor on the same road. He was appointed a messenger for Parker's Express Company between Iowa City and Dubuque in 1856. In 1857 he became agent for the United States Express Company at Iowa City, the Parker Company being absorbed by the United States about that time. Mr. Quick was in charge of the Company's offices at Marengo, Brooklyn, and Grinnell, and in 1863 became Superintendent in Iowa and Nebraska, his territory subsequently embracing the entire Rock Island system. Mr. Quick retained his official connection with the Company up to the time of his death.

SAMUEL HUSBAND FAIRALL was born in Alleghany county, Maryland, June 21, 1835; he died at his home near Iowa City, Iowa, March 8, 1909. He was descended from English and Welsh ancestry, who settled in Maryland early in the seventeenth century, being a direct descendant of Samuel Snowden, who was a member of Prince George's County Committee under the Continental Congress. He was a young man of industrious and studious habits, and entering Washington College at Washington, Pennsylvania, at an early age, was graduated in 1855. Shortly after his graduation he removed to Iowa, arriving at Iowa City, October 1st, 1855. He early manifested a preference for the study of the law, and soon after his arrival at Iowa City, entered the law office of William Penn Clarke, a leading lawyer, and then Supreme Court Reporter. He proved to be a diligent student, and was admitted to the bar on June 21, 1856. He formed a partnership the same year with James D. Templin, and in 1861 he entered into partnership with Hon. George J. Boal, continuing in this association until 1873, the firm during this time becoming one of the prominent law firms of the State, and enjoying a large and lucrative practice. He continued the practice of law part of the time alone, and part of the time in partnership with H. F. Bonorden, Hon. C. S. Ranck, and his brother, H. S. Fairall, until 1886, when he was elected District Judge of the Eighth Judicial District of Iowa, and in 1890 was re-elected for a second term. Upon leaving the bench, he resumed the active practice of law, in which he continued until his death. He was a member of the House of Representatives in the Ninth and Ninth extra sessions of the General Assembly, and of the Senate in the Twelfth, Thirteenth, Fourteenth and Fifteenth sessions of the General Assembly. He was an active thoroughgoing Democratic leader, serving as delegate to county, district and state conventions, during the greater part of his active life, and presided over the Democratic State Convention, which elected him a delegate to the National Democratic Convention, in 1868. Judge Fairall was for many years and until his death an active and efficient member of the Trinity Protestant Episcopal Church in Iowa City, and a faithful member of its Board of Vestrymen, attending at different times the Diocesan Conventions of this Church. Judge Fairall was a notable character, prominent in public affairs, not only in his community, but throughout the State. He was an able legislator, whose lasting impress will remain as a part of the legislation of the State for all time; a careful, painstaking, competent judge, an able, industrious, tireless lawyer, ambitious and successful in his profession.

G. A. B.

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GILBERT BALDWIN PRAY was born in Michigan City, Indiana, April 27, 1847; he died at Iowa City, Iowa, on February 28, 1909. Coming to Webster City, Iowa, by the removal of his family to that place in 1856, he was educated in the public schools of that city. In 1864, when seventeen years old, he enlisted in Company F, Sixteenth Iowa Infantry, participating in the battle of Nashville and the later campaigns of Sherman's army. At the close of the war he became a student in the law office of the late Judge D. D. Chase at Webster City, was admitted to the bar in 1868, and practiced his profession in Webster City until 1880. He was elected Clerk of the Supreme Court of Iowa in 1882 and served in that office for twelve years with marked efficiency. He was twice elected Chairman of the Republican State Central Committee, and served as a member of that body for

many years. Mr. Pray was appointed Surveyor General of Alaska by President McKinley in 1897, and in declining that office was appointed a Special Representative of the Bureau of Indian Affairs. He resigned this office in 1890, removed to Des Moines and engaged actively in the service, as Treasurer of the Royal Union Mutual Life Insurance Company, in the organization of which institution, he had participated in 1886. He remained in this service until his death. In all the activities of a life more varied than is usual, he was courageous, loyal and efficient. F. D. J.

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JOSEPH WENDELL MUFFLY was born in Clinton county, Pa., July 11, 1840; he died at Hot Springs, South Dakota, whence he had gone from his home in Des Moines for treatment, January 1, 1909. At the age of 17 he removed to Freeport, Illinois, teaching school for a time, but returned to complete his education at Dickinson Seminary at Williamsport, Pa. While pursuing his studies he responded to the first call for volunteers to put down the rebellion and enlisted as a private in Company B, 148th Pennsylvania Volunteers. He served throughout the war with this regiment, being appointed its adjutant before his discharge. He was wounded at Gettysburg. In later life he compiled "The History of the 148th Pennsylvania Volunteers," an authority on the campaigns of that regiment, accepted by its surviving members and by the War Department. Shortly after the close of the war, Captain Muffly removed to Des Moines, Iowa, and founded the Iowa Business College, which he managed until 1876. He served as Deputy County Clerk, Assistant Adjutant General of the G. A. R., Recorder of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion from the time of its organization until his death, and as Commander of Crocker Post, G. A. R.

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HENRY J. B. CUMMING was born in Sussex county, N. J., May 21, 1831; he died at his home in Winterset, Iowa, April 16, 1909. His childhood was spent in Lycoming county, Pennsylvania, where he attended the common schools and had a year of instruction at a private academy. He was admitted to the bar in 1854, and migrated to Winterset, Iowa, in 1856, where he entered the practice and immediately became an influential factor in business and politics. He was one of the organizers and the leader of the Republican party in his locality. He was twice mayor of Winterset, served as prosecuting attorney and was a representative for the Seventh Iowa District in the Forty-fifth Congress. He was captain of a company of Home Guards which was mustered into the army at Council Bluffs, in 1861, as Company F of the 4th Iowa Infantry. He was transferred to the 39th Infantry with the commission of Colonel and mustered out January 1, 1865. He owned the Winterset *Madisonian* in whole or in part from 1869 for eighteen years. Upon retiring as a publisher he also gave up the law practice and concentrated his attention upon purely business matters. At his death he was heavily interested in real estate and banking enterprises.

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FRANCIS WESLEY EVANS was born in Pittsburg, Pa., March 17, 1829; he died at his home, 1319 E. Ninth street, Des Moines, Iowa, September 3, 1908. He was brought to Lee county, Iowa, in 1839.



He was appointed to the ministry by the Annual Conference of the Methodist Episcopal church in 1851 and continued in church pastorates throughout Iowa for nearly 40 years. He was a member of the first Methodist Conference in Iowa and when that was divided, was appointed to the Iowa Conference. Among his charges were the churches at Burlington, Washington, Mt. Pleasant, Albia, Ottumwa, Oskaloosa and Knoxville. He was one of the oldest members of the Methodist Conference when he retired from the ministry in 1890, removing permanently to Des Moines to become a lecturer for the Odd Fellows Lodge, which he served as Grand Chaplain. He also lectured on Masonry and on temperance subjects. He served as Chaplain of the 35th Iowa for two years during the civil war. He was a forceful and eloquent speaker.

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LEMUEL KINKEAD was born in Guernsey county, Ohio, May 10, 1846; he died at his residence, 415 Center Street, Des Moines, December 11, 1908. He immigrated when a boy to Knoxville, Iowa, with his father's family. At sixteen he enlisted in Company E, 8th Iowa Infantry, the youngest enlisted man in his regiment. He was shot through the left lung at Shiloh, lying in the enemies' territory all the night of April 6, 1862, escaping the capture of his regiment. After his recovery he rejoined the army in the Union Brigade, participating in the siege of Vicksburg. He was mustered out in 1864 as a corporal. He was a painter by trade, but being possessed of a voice and presence suited admirably to the stage, he became an actor and pursued that calling for some five years, studying law in the meantime. He was admitted to the bar in 1880, and attained success. Through his legal practice and upon the platform in the delivery of his thrilling lecture on the Battle of Shiloh, he was widely known throughout the State. As a member of the staff of Governor Drake he acquired the honorary title of Colonel.

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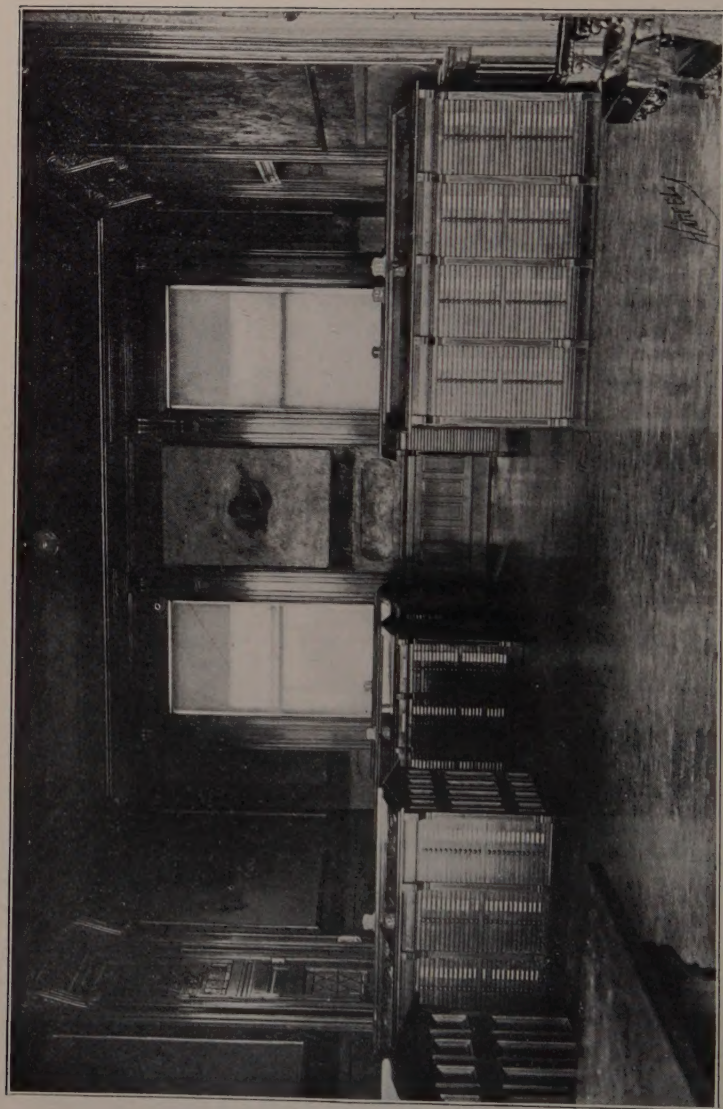
GEORGE SAUM was born in Highland county, Ohio, April 22, 1814; he died at the residence of his daughter, Mrs. Robert Johnson, at Anamosa, Iowa, July 2, 1908. He removed to Lee county, Iowa, in 1839, and to Jones county in 1840. He acquired 320 acres of land at the Dubuque land sales of the same year, residing on that land until 1878, by which time he had acquired 2,000 acres. In 1842 he brought from Richmond, Indiana, the first apple, pear and cherry trees planted in Jones county. He introduced three Short Horn cows and the bull Locomotive, an animal imported from England, these being the first in Jones county. He purchased the first McCormick reaper introduced into that county in 1844. He introduced metal moldboard plows. He had his first log cabin used as the first school in his township in 1842, and two years later erected a new schoolhouse with the labor of his own hands and men. He introduced Poland China hogs into his section of the State. He lived to see the land he acquired at \$1.25 per acre reach a value of \$150,000.

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JAMES M. ROBB was born March 10, 1836, at Service, Beaver county, Pa.; he died at Albia, Iowa, January 9, 1909. He removed to Monroe county, Iowa, in 1853, settling in Bluff Creek township. He enlisted in the 13th Iowa Infantry, serving three years and being severely wounded. He was admitted to the bar about 1882. He served three terms as sheriff of Monroe county and as a Representative in the Eighteenth and Nineteenth General Assemblies.







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